

Vickers gets approval for £60m buy-out

By Anthony Bevis and Edward Townsend

The Cabinet's economic affairs committee yesterday accepted a £60 million buy-out for Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering Limited.

After a one-hour meeting at 10 Downing Street, Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, told the Commons in a surprise statement that the Trafalgar House bid had been rejected because of a confidential clause - in spite of the fact that its commercial terms had been judged superior.

one of the biggest employee share schemes in history will be sent to workers at Barrow-in-Furness in Cumbria and Birkenhead in Merseyside next Tuesday. It will contain details of the methods for buying shares including the offer of an interest-free £500 loan to acquire a stake in the company.

Pretoria expels CBS TV team

From Michael Hornsby Johannesburg

South Africa yesterday served expulsion orders on three members of CBS News, America's biggest television news network, and accused them of showing "flagrant disregard" for the South African Supreme Court. The orders were issued under the Aliens Act of 1937.

This draconian move - described in a statement last night by the Foreign Correspondents' Association as "a punitive action with few precedents in Africa and the West" - came as the 229-day-old state of emergency and related press controls were cancelled by presidential proclamation.

The three CBS members, Mr William Mutschmann, the American bureau chief, aged 61, Mr Allen Pizny, aged 39, a Canadian, and Mr Wim De Vos, aged 38, who is Dutch, received letters from the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, telling them to leave the country by midnight on Tuesday.

They have, however, been given "an opportunity to make representations as to why this order should not be carried out" and they are to meet Mr Botha with their lawyer in Cape town on Monday. In the meantime, Mr Mutschmann said last night, "we will continue to cover the story to the best of our ability."



The Princess of Wales met eye to eye with Angela Maan, aged 6, at the opening of the Markfield Project for handicapped children in Tottenham, north London, yesterday.

Officials banned photographers taking pictures of the Princess with Mr Bernie Grant, the controversial leader of Haringey Council.

Lonrho fears takeover bid as shares rise

By Cliff Fetham

Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, chief executive of the Lonrho international conglomerate, sounded the alert yesterday as fears mounted that a takeover bid for the £730 million group could be imminent.

After the share price had steadily risen, he reported that a consortium might have been put together in the United States to bid for the group.

One City analyst said: "It certainly looks as if Lonrho is vulnerable to a bid." Likely predators being mentioned last night included Sir James Goldsmith and Mr T Boone Pickens, the Texan oilman.

Lonrho confirmed what the market had been saying for some time when it issued a statement drawing attention to substantial buying in the company's shares over the last few weeks.

The statement said the directors had heard numerous rumours concerning the reason for the keen interest in the shares but until now had looked upon them as being "a company re-rating of the company's stock."

Within the last 48 hours, however, a much more persistent position has started to appear with aggressive buying and suggestions that a consortium has been organized in the United States to make a bid for Lonrho.

board is taking all possible steps to clarify the position. In the stock market yesterday, Lonrho shares touched 280p, up 21p on the day, and from a low of 147p last year.

Mr Rowland, the architect of the company, is the largest single holder, with 17 per cent of the group. But there has been considerable mystery surrounding the whereabouts of the 8 per cent stake recently unloaded by the Arab investors, Gulf Fisheries.

Lonrho is a British-based international trading group with more than 800 companies in 80 countries. It is at present involved in a bid for BL's Land Rover business.

Last year Lonrho profits totalled £158 million and stockbrokers are looking towards the £186 million figure for this year.

But there has been a suspicion for some time that Mr Rowland may be ready to pull out if the price is right.

The attraction for a bidder is in breaking up the various parts of the group, which range from gold mining to hotels and motor distribution. Mr Paul Spicer, a Lonrho director, last night admitted that the evidence pointed towards a bid for the group.

Mr Kenneth Long, analyst at Grievson Grant, the stockbrokers, said: "Six months ago I would have thought the chances of a bid for Lonrho as rather unlikely but since the Arabs sold out the position has changed and the company does look very vulnerable."

Base rate cut may be nearer

By David Smith Economics Correspondent

The United States and Japan cut their interest rates yesterday, and Britain's base rates should follow soon. City dealers expect a base rate reduction of up to a point near Budget day, March 8.

Hope of lower interest rates lifted share prices to new highs. The Financial Times industrial ordinary share index rose 9.4 points to 1308.8.

The Bank of Japan reduced its discount rate from 4.5 to 4 per cent yesterday and was soon followed by the US Federal Reserve Board, which reduced its discount rate from 7.5 to 7 per cent, the lowest level since 1978.

The Federal Reserve Board said it was responding to the interest rate cut by Japan and Germany's reduction on Thursday. Several US banks cut prime lending rates from 9 1/2 to 9 per cent.

Central banks around the world are confident that the sharp fall in oil prices means lower inflation.

Ironically for Britain, the falling oil price is likely to postpone a cut in base rates, currently 12.5 per cent, for some days. Although money market interest rates have fallen to a level which would permit a half point base rate reduction now, money market traders expect the Chancellor to delay a cut until the Budget.

Fed cuts rates, page 21

Militant charge on Hatton

By Anthony Bevis Political Correspondent

Formal Labour Party charges of militant membership were served on Mr Derek Hatton and 15 other leading party members in Liverpool yesterday.

It had been thought that Mr Larry Whitty, the party's general secretary, might confine the charges to the hardcore 10 identified in last month's inquiry report to the Labour national executive.

However, all 16 named in that report received letters yesterday saying that because they had attended Militant rallies and distributed Militant leaflets there was evidence of membership of the Trotskyist group; and that if that was the case they would not be eligible for membership of the Labour Party.

They have all been asked to attend a meeting of the national executive which has been put back to March 26 to give them time to prepare a defence or response to the charges.

That national executive hearing is expected to reach a verdict on the expulsion of at least 10 of those picked out by the Liverpool inquiry report.

Mr Hatton said yesterday: "It is ludicrous. I totally deny campaigning under Militant. Every campaign has been under the auspices of the Liverpool Labour Party."

State will not help City in tin crisis

By Michael Prest, Financial Correspondent

Desperate efforts were being made in the City and through diplomatic channels yesterday to avert a collapse in the price of tin and the bankruptcies it would cause, following the breakdown of talks on Thursday between the International Tin Council and banks and metal brokers which it owes £900 million.

There is still some hope that the talks can be revived, but the Government made it clear yesterday that no help would be forthcoming for the City.

Mr Alan Clark, the Trade Minister, turned down a request from the London Metal Exchange to use the £50 million that the Government would have put towards an international rescue plan to help City firms.

If the rescue plan is not revived, banks and brokers are likely to sue the members of the ITC, which claim sovereign immunity. This would probably result in a long, costly and very important series of actions.

Mr Clark told the House of Commons that fresh efforts to solve the crisis were possible if a substantial number of other ITC member countries were willing to co-operate. But he said that Britain was not prepared to take over the ITC's outstanding gross commitments. Whitehall sources were adamant that the Government will not take the initiative.

The tin crisis broke on October 24 when the ITC, whose 22 member countries agreed to support the world tin price, ran out of money.

Talks to set up a company, called TinCo, to take over the ITC's obligations and allow an orderly resumption of tin trading failed at the last minute on Thursday when Indonesia said it could not accept the plan and Thailand asked for more time to consider it.

Next week MONDAY

In Royal style



How Princess Michael of Kent sees British fashion, on the eve of the international collections opening in Milan

THURSDAY

Catholic taste



Times Profile of Cardinal Basil Hume, leader of England's Roman Catholic community

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition prize of £5,000 - treble the usual amount because there were no winners on the two previous days - was shared yesterday between Mrs M Sheal of Streatham, S.W.16 and Mr S Tanner of Thame, Oxfordshire. Portfolio list, page 22; weekly list, information service, page 40.

Bidders complain of BL secrecy

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

Some of the runners in the race for parts of BL have been forced to make "blind bids" because the company and its merchant bank have refused to disclose adequate information, it was said last night.

Two senior sources involved in one of the bids said they had been refused permission to talk with the operational management of Land Rover, or its workforce, and had not even been allowed into the Land Rover plant in Solihull to see what they were bidding for.

One source said that he was "sickened" by what had been happening under the confidential negotiating terms imposed by BL. At the very least, the arrangements had been incompetently handled.

That charge is bound to be raised in the Commons, and within the Government, by those who suspect bias in favour of General Motors.

Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, told the Commons on Wednesday: "Lonrho and everyone else who asked, was given a packet on information which I am assured by my advisers, as well as by the advisers to BL, was normal practice."

But one of The Times's sources said last night that they had been given the most "threadbare" information, including annual reports and accounts, sales figures available from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, and some glossy brochures "with pretty pictures".

Detailed requests for facts and figures had met the response that the information was either commercially sensitive or unavailable.

A spokesman for BL said last night: "I strongly refute allegations that we have provided an abysmal level of information." Their merchant bankers, Hill Samuel, were satisfied that the information was adequate.

The spokesman said that all potential bidders had been given an opportunity to speak with directors of the company, but one source said that they had been refused access to operational management of Land Rover because of a "conflict of interest" - they were involved in the bid. That was described as a "pretence" by one source.

The original letter sent by Hill Samuel to companies and groups which expressed an interest said: "BL is prepared (but not committed) to provide answers to reasonable questions submitted in writing."

The declared bidders announced by Mr Channon on Wednesday were: Schroder Ventures on behalf of some institutions and members of the BL management, in respect of Land Rover, Range Rover and Freight Rover; Lonrho in respect of Land Rover and Range Rover; Aveling Barford in respect of Land Rover; and General Motors bidding for Land Rover, Range Rover, Freight Rover and Leyland Trucks.

Gulf missile kills four

Abu Dhabi (Reuters) - The bodies of three Greek seamen, missing after a missile hit their ship in the Gulf, have been found in the crew's mess taking the death toll to four. The ship was hit early on Thursday, apparently by a missile from an Iranian helicopter gunship.

The Cypriot tanker was carrying a cargo of petrol from Bahrain to Australia.

Habib for Central America

From Michael Binyon Washington

President Reagan yesterday named the veteran diplomatic trouble-shooter, Mr Philip Habib, fresh from his recent success in the Philippines as his new special envoy to Central America.

Mr Habib, aged 66, returned only yesterday from his second mission to Manila where he had talks with President Corason Aquino. He takes over from Mr Harry Shlaudeman, the present Central America envoy, who will be given another important job.

Mr Reagan is seeking \$100 million (£57 million) in aid for the "Contra" rebels who are fighting to overthrow the left-

ist Sandinista Government in Nicaragua. But his request is running into heavy opposition from members of both the Republican and Democratic parties in Congress.



Mr Habib Seeking to achieve a diplomatic solution

Spider's web tattoo is clue to rapist

By Michael Hornsall

A spider's web tattoo was one of several clues disclosed yesterday by police hunting three men who raped a woman at a west London vicarage and brutally attacked her father and boyfriend.

The three men, all white, were armed with knives. They struck on Thursday as the family was preparing for lunch. They rang the doorbell, the vicar opened the door and the men, burst in. They attacked the two men with a cricket bat belonging to the vicar, inflicting severe head injuries. One of them raped the vicar's daughter, aged 21, while the other two sexually assaulted her.

They bound their victims with string before fleeing with a video recorder, jewellery, cash and a carriage clock.

Last night police appealed for public help to trace the gang but gave a warning that they could strike again. The cricket bat has not been recovered and the police asked for information about anyone in the area seen carrying one.

The rapist was wearing a glove on his right hand which partially concealed a spider's web tattoo. He was described as 6ft tall, well-built, in his late twenties, with greasy black hair and wearing a blue nylon bomber jacket.

M.A.R. tattooed over three of his knuckles. He is said to be about 5ft 7in tall and stocky, with a pot belly and light-coloured streaked hair. He was wearing jeans and a grey/green bomber jacket.

The third man was aged about 23, 5ft 8in tall with light-coloured hair.

The police, led by Det Chief Supt David Lamper, recovered two knives at the vicarage. They are searching for a third knife.

Mr Lamper said: "This is one of the most vicious and unnecessary crimes I have seen. I would hope that with the excellent descriptions we have and with the help of the public we will be able to identify and arrest these men."

The woman, who was able to free herself and then untie the two men, was taken to the new rape victims' suite at Brentford near by. Prisoners said prayers for the victims at special meetings.

The vicar, aged 53, was recovering from head injuries in hospital. He was said to be comfortable. The woman's boyfriend, aged 25, received several skull fractures but was said to be stable in Charing Cross Hospital.

Gower strikes form but England falter

David Gower, the England captain, returned to form when he scored 66 on the first day of the second Test match against the West Indies at Port of Spain, Trinidad, yesterday. But not even a stand of 106 runs for the fourth wicket between him and Allan Lamb could prevent England from collapsing to 151 for six.

Britain's tennis players made a winning start to their Davis Cup world group tie against Spain in Telford when Jeremy Bates, the British No.2, surprisingly defeated the Spanish No.1, Sergio Casal, 6-1, 6-3, 3-6, 8-6. Page 35

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Labour is the party of true patriotism, Kinnock declares

By Anthony Bevins Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnock yesterday played up Labour's patriotism in a direct attack on Conservative policies which he said had produced "a ripped-off, run-down, sold-out, worn-out economy".

With an appeal clearly designed to capitalize on the Westland and BL affairs, the Labour leader told the Scottish Labour Party conference in Perth that his party had the strength of commitment to the country and its values: patriotism.

"Not the patriotism that expresses itself in selling off and shutting down our industries. Not the patriotism of the presidential puppet. Not the patriotism that curses the people of our country as 'the enemy within'."

"Ours is the patriotism of production, a patriotism of pride in care, a patriotism of jobs and justice."

"There is the narrow patriotism of prejudice and pomp and vanity; a patriotism that is

forgotten when the cheque book is waved."

Mr Kinnock said that the Government was "the luckiest, louisiest government ever. Luckiest for what they've had. Louisiest for what they've done with it."

He said: "They have blown billions. They are the biggest spending, biggest selling, biggest borrowing, biggest taxing and job-axing government in British history."

They had borrowed an extra £10 billion every year for six years, they had increased taxation by 40 per cent and doubled the liability of those on the basic rate of tax, they had sold off £15 billion of national assets, and had benefited from £30 billion in North Sea oil revenues.

Mr Kinnock said that in spite of that, manufacturing output was still lower than in 1979, manufacturing investment was 18 per cent down on 1979, a trade surplus in manufacturing had been turned into a £5 billion deficit and there were record interest rates,

crime, bankruptcies and poverty.

"Most of all", Mr Kinnock said, "even on their fiddled figures, they've got record unemployment of 3.4 million."

But he also attacked the Alliance option, without naming it, as a protest gesture. He said that the voters could object to Toryism by voting for "just about anyone", but they could eject Toryism only by voting Labour.

Mr Kinnock was careful to emphasize the democratic socialism of the Labour Party and he warned some of his own followers that the party's priority commitment to create a million jobs "in the first stage of the next Labour government" meant complete dedication to that end.

He said: "In this movement we do not try to persuade ourselves or anyone else that we offer a shopping-list form of socialism. The Tory legacy of waste and weakness and wreckage forbids that."

Sikh says murder claims are false

A Sikh leader who is seeking political asylum in Britain, said yesterday that the Indian government had started a "deliberate witch-hunt" against him.

"The Indian government has fabricated something like 33 charges, including murder, against me to force the British government to return me to India," Mr Jaswant Singh Thekedar said.

"I am only a man of peace, I am neither a murderer nor a terrorist," Mr Thekedar said in his council flat in Southall, west London.

But, according to the Indian government, Mr Thekedar, aged 37, is one of the country's most wanted men. The External Affairs Minister, Mr K.R. Narayanan, has accused Britain of not only harbouring Mr Thekedar but also giving him privileged treatment by providing him with a council home.

A senior spokesman for the Indian High Commission said yesterday that a £6,000 reward was offered for Mr Thekedar when he fled to Britain from the Punjab in 1982, shortly after the murder of two young policemen.

Mr Thekedar, who calls himself the Defence Minister of Khalistan, an independent homeland which Sikhs want to establish in the Punjab, said he and his family came to Britain in December 1982 to seek refuge.

He alleged that the Indian government had embarked on a witch-hunt against all Sikh leaders and minority groups.

Mr Thekedar admitted he was the chief organizer of the extremist Dal Khalsa party in Britain, but strongly denied rumours that he had offered to kill Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister.



Will Lindesay, aged 29, a British long-distance runner, in training yesterday on the Albert Embankment before leaving for China where he hopes to become the first man to run the 2,400 miles of the Great Wall, taking 120 days.

Gang sentenced for robbing Tube passengers

Seven members of a teenage gang known as the "Killerman Gold Posse" who terrorized Tube passengers and robbed them, were given custodial sentences at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

The eighth gang member, and only girl, snarled "Bitch" at Judge Lowry, who did not hear the insult, and then left the court with a grin.

Debra Read, aged 16, sat puffing a cigarette outside court and said: "I suppose it's OK to be free." She was ordered to complete 75 hours community service.

Judge Lowry described her as an enthusiastic thief and a "silly young woman wanting to be the centre of attraction".

Passing sentence on Read's male companions, the judge said their terrifying robberies brought misery to commuters using the Underground.

The 30-strong gang, which carried knives, struck dozens of times, ripping gold chains, rings and bracelets from victims while other travellers rushed to intervene. They operated for a year and the police estimated that they stole jewellery worth £1,500 a week.

But they did not confine their activities to the Tube and were responsible for attacks

on shopkeepers, pedestrians and even a school mistress who was surrounded and robbed as she taught in a south London school.

The gang was broken, although only a few of the culprits were caught, when members were arrested after looting a shop in Oxford Street, London, and beating the manager.

Miss Dawn Drake, aged 17, a bank clerk from Camberwell, south London, told the court that she was reading a book on a train when she was surrounded by the gang. Two of them pulled flick knives and placed the blades between her fingers as they demanded her rings, threatening to cut off her fingers.

The leader of the gang, Michael Stewart, aged 20, was sentenced to six years youth custody; Simon Webster, aged 19, four years; Michael Walk, aged 19, three years; Darren Barnes, aged 16, and Anthony Hillaire, aged 19, 30 months each; Simon Read, aged 18, 21 months; and Michael Davies, aged 18, 12 months.

They were all from Kennington, south London, and all pleaded guilty to the robbery charges.

US aid for Ulster arouses suspicion

By Stephen Goodwin Political Staff

Mrs Margaret Thatcher was yesterday challenged to state whether any United States aid for Northern Ireland would be accepted, if it was conditional on outside intervention in the United Kingdom's internal affairs.

Sir John Biggs-Davison, a former Conservative spokesman on Ulster, has tabled a Commons question to the Prime Minister in an attempt to learn the conditions of any American aid package.

The American proposal for a \$250 million boost to the economies of both Northern Ireland and the Republic over five years has aroused instant suspicion among politicians.

Sir John said anyone who imagined Northern Ireland would be reconciled to the Anglo-Irish agreement by "dollops of dollars" did not understand the Ulster people.

"There is already enough

Tory fears over early poll date

By George Hill

Conservative Party sources sought yesterday to discount speculation that an early date had been decided on for the by-election in Fulham, southwest London.

This week's news of two more impending by-elections in Conservative seats has affected tactical calculations over the by-election.

One view is that the vote, in a seat where the Conservatives had a slim 4,789 majority at the last election, and their opponents have high hopes, should be taken on or near the date of the London local elections on May 8.

But the prospect of two more by-elections, both in seats where the runner-up was an Alliance candidate, has reinforced the argument for getting the Fulham vote over more quickly.

The longer it is delayed, the more time the Alliance candidate has to make an impression.

It is too soon for open party speculation about the prospects for Rydale, whose MP, Mr John Spence, died on Tuesday.

The MP for the other seat, in Derbyshire West, Mr Matthew Parris, will not leave for the world of television until August.

Bank accused on gold fraud

By Our Political Correspondent

Mr Brian Sedgemore, Labour MP for Hackney, South and Shoreditch, yesterday accused the Bank of England of refusing to cooperate with customs and excise on gold bullion fraud.

It was disclosed by *The Times* this week that Johnson Matthey Bankers, who were taken over by the Bank of England in 1984, had failed to adhere to voluntary controls on the payments of value-added tax direct to customs rather than bullion dealers, who have sometimes disappeared with the money.

Mr Peter Brooke, Minister of State at the Treasury, told Mr Sedgemore in a Commons written reply last night that the voluntary scheme had been introduced in November 1983.

"The Commissioners of Customs and Excise advise me that Johnson Matthey Bankers was issued with a letter of authority to use the scheme from its inception."

"However, to disclose the extent of the company's use of the scheme would be a breach of the commissioners' normal principle of confidentiality governing the affairs of an individual taxpayer."

Mr Sedgemore said last night that he had expected the Treasury to refute the allegations made in *The Times*. "It now appears that the Bank of England has refused to cooperate in the prevention of fraud."

Bank accused on gold fraud

Since 1981 it has been estimated that the Exchequer has been defrauded of £60 million in revenue from gold sales worth about £400 million. It was announced this week that from next month all gold dealers, including JMB, would pay the value-added tax on gold purchases direct to customs.

Mr Sedgemore tabled a Commons written question to the Prime Minister yesterday, asking for the dismissal of Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, Lord Chancellor, from the Cabinet because of his refusal to "divest himself of his interest as a name at Lloyd's" before the Financial Services Bill was considered by the House of Lords.

Farley is sold to Boots

Boots has paid £18 million for Farley, the baby milk manufacturer which was linked with an outbreak of salmonella poisoning.

The price is well below the £40 million expected for the business before the outbreak forced the owners, Glaxo, to put it into voluntary liquidation.

Boots is buying the business from the liquidators, Mr Michael Jordan and Mr Malcolm London, of Cork Gully.

A spokesman for Boots said it intended to restore the Osmolink, Osmolac and Complan brands to the market as soon as possible.

"We have found that there is enormous brand loyalty which still exists," he said.

Boots was negotiating with Glaxo last year to buy Farley until the Department of Health linked salmonella poisoning in infants to some of its leading products.

Farley's plant at Kendal, Cumbria, which has been shut since before Christmas, has been cleared to resume production of milk powder products. The rusk and cereal plant at Plymouth has been operating normally.

Farley had sales of about £40 million last year. The cost of withdrawing products and halting production plunged it into a £10 million loss for the first half of this year.

Boots defended the price it was paying. "We are paying a very fair price for a business which will fit in very nicely with our Crookes consumer products", it said.

These products include Sweater, Optrex and Strepisil throat sweets.

Pit plea refused by judge

An attempt by the mining unions to halt the closure of Bates Colliery, at Bythel, Northumberland, failed in the High Court in London yesterday.

Mr Justice Macpherson said that the National Coal Board's decision to close the pit against the advice of an independent review body could not be challenged.

The coal board said after the hearing that it would go ahead with the closure.

The judge said that only decisions made by public bodies exercising public law could be challenged in the High Court by way of judicial review.

The coal board's decision did not come into that category. The court could not rule on allegations by the miners' union, the pit deputies' union, the white collar pitmen's union, and the pit mechanics that the board had acted unfairly and unlawfully.

The judge said that although the board had a statutory duty under the Coal Industry Nationalization Act, 1946, to run the coal industry, that did not extend to decisions such as that to close Bates. A board decision to close a pit was no different, in law, from a similar decision by any other large commercial organization.

The action had been brought by the Northumberland Area NUM, the National Association of Colliery Overmen, Deputies and Shiftfitters (NACODS), the NUM white collar section Cosa, and the NUM Northumberland Pit Mechanics Area.

Heathrow customs walkout

Customs officers at Heathrow airport staged a 24-hour strike yesterday in protest at the manning levels proposed for terminal four which is due to open next month.

The 350 officers who joined the strike were angered by a proposal that starting times should be brought forward from 7 am to 6 am to meet early morning international flights. They claimed that many of them would have to get up in the middle of the night to be at work on time.

In spite of the walk-out, senior and non-union customs officers were on duty.

Honesty boxes had also been set up to enable passengers to make voluntary declarations.

A spokesman for the customs said that long-standing contingency plans had been put into operation and were working satisfactorily. Few passengers arriving at Heathrow said after clearing customs that they had realized a strike was in progress.

Security in IRA bomb hearing

The toughest security precautions seen at the Central Criminal Court were in force yesterday when nine men and two women appeared on IRA bomb charges.

Police snipers took up positions on rooftops overlooking a court, armed officers wearing flak jackets patrolled the streets, and a helicopter hovered overhead.

Every person entering the building was subjected to a body search.

Police with detectors checked private vehicles and the building was searched with sniffer dogs.

The accused people, brought to court by armed convoy, are accused of conspiring to cause explosions at the Conservative Party conference in Brighton and other bomb charges. They were appearing for legal applications.

Mr Justice Boreham made a contempt of court order banning press reporting of any of yesterday's proceedings which were adjourned until May.

Thatcher call to Irish on Sellafield fears

By Stephen Goodwin

Mrs Margaret Thatcher moved yesterday to allay Irish fears about leaks from British Nuclear Fuels' reprocessing plant at Sellafield in Cumbria.

She says in a letter to Dr Garret FitzGerald, the Irish prime minister, that "relatively minor incidents" at the plant have been exaggerated by the media in an apparent attempt to discredit the nuclear industry.

Dr FitzGerald voiced misgivings about discharges into the Irish Sea from Sellafield when he met Mrs Thatcher last month.

The Prime Minister says in

Vickers gets approval for £60m buy-out

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stands every chance of being the most successful employee buy-out in history."

Mr Franks said the consortium won the day despite the "last minute frenetic attempts by Trafalgar House to stampede the Government".

Vickers employs about 12,000 at Barrow, and at Cammell Laird in Birkenhead, once one of Britain's most notorious strike-prone shipyards, a further 1,500. The remainder of the 14,000 VSEL workforce are at locations from the north of Scotland to Southampton.

The underwriting of the consortium's £100 million bid has been arranged by Lloyds Merchant Bank which disclosed yesterday that the institutions backing the management included the Prudential, Pearl Assurance, Eagle Star, and Norwich Union. The only foreign involvement is a minor interest by the First National Bank of Boston.

Dr Leach said at a press conference that there would be nothing to stop workers being elected onto the board in future.

VSEL's current order book

Thatcher call to Irish on Sellafield fears

her letter that neither the Government nor the nuclear industry is complacent.

"The average amount of radiation received by the UK public from the nuclear industry is only about one-tenth of 1 per cent of that from natural sources, and for the Irish public it is of course very much less," the letter says.

Mrs Thatcher describes as "presenting no hazard" the release into the sea of about 440 kg of low-level radioactivity on January 23 which caused particular alarm to the Irish public.

Minister rules out mediation over Wapping

By George Hill

Labour demands for the Government to intervene directly in the News International printing dispute were rejected in the Commons yesterday by Mr David Trippier, Under Secretary in the Department of Employment.

But Mr Trippier told MPs in a debate on trade union rights that Aes, the independent conciliation service, was following the dispute closely.

The cost of policing the News International dispute at Wapping was about £200,000 thus far, Mr Giles Shaw, Minister of State in the Home Office, said.

Parliament, page 4

Garden hints for townfolk

Town gardeners will receive help and inspiration for their growing needs at the new garden centre at Alexandra Palace in north London (Our Horticulture Correspondent writes).

Established by Towns and Country Garden Centres, it was officially opened yesterday and offers a wide selection of planting ideas and water, herb, wildlife and celebrity gardens.

At the advice centre, visitors will be able to obtain free help

Cricket writer's 'high life' ends in jail

A cricket writer's success with a book on Fred Truman gave him a taste for the high life.

But behind the "bestseller" lifestyle of Christopher Clarke was a series of building society frauds and a string of unpaid hotel bills.

While the freelance author worked on a book about Geoffrey Boycott he lived a Walter Mitty lifestyle, a court heard yesterday. Clarke, who writes under the name Daniel Tarafin, was jailed for 18 months at York Crown Court.

And Judge Vivian Hurwitz told him: "You are well educated and talented as an author. But you are, I'm afraid, imbued with a deep-seated seed of dishonesty."

Earlier the court heard how Clarke had been given a suspended sentence in 1982 after defrauding a cricket club of several hundred pounds to

Cricket writer's 'high life' ends in jail

fly a professional cricketer from India.

Clarke, aged 34, tricked first a guesthouse in Ripon, North Yorkshire.

Mr Christopher Williams, for the prosecution, said Clarke booked in for two months, telling the owner he was writing a book on Boycott. But two weeks later he was gone, leaving bills of £100.

Just days later he deceived a hotel in Chelmsford, Essex,

before fleeing north once more.

There he was questioned by the police, but was granted bail. Over the next few months he also tricked the Abbey National and Darlington building societies into giving him almost £200 by using a series of forged account books.

Clarke pleaded guilty to two charges of making off without payment, false accounting and obtaining property by deception.

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Obstetrician branded as a 'crusader with a sharp temper'

By Nicholas Timmins
Social Services
Correspondent

Mrs Wendy Savage, the consultant obstetrician suspended from the London Hospital, was yesterday described as a "crusader with a rather sharp temper" who let her great zeal for admirable medical principles cloud her judgement to the extent that she put mothers and babies at risk.

Mr Ian Kennedy, QC, counsel for Tower Hamlets Health Authority, winding up at the end of the five-week hearing into allegations of incompetence against Mrs Savage, said she had sought to justify her actions by untruths and by pushing the blame on to others, including junior doctors.

Her inability to acknowledge that she was at fault was "a grave defect of character", he said. She had shown in one case, where a Bengali mother spent more than 12 hours in labour with a breech baby, a narrow pelvis and a history of a previous caesarean, before a caesarean section was finally performed, that she "could not bring herself to acknowledge" that she had made "a total mess" of it.

Not one of the expert witnesses called by either side was prepared to say he or she would have "walked the road she walked" in the handling of the case in which the baby died eight days after birth as a result either of the labour, a lethal blood disorder, or both.

This particular piece of medical practice is so bad that unless it is fully and frankly acknowledged as being a total brainstorm, it speaks of incompetence", Mr Kennedy said.

"Unless one can recognize fault in oneself there cannot be

Mrs Savage faces £100,000 bill

The five-week inquiry means that Mrs Savage faces a legal bill of more than £100,000 and that Tower Hamlets Health Authority will have to pay legal expenses estimated at well over £40,000.

Her supporters have raised £40,000 towards her legal costs, but her solicitor, Mr Brian Raymond, said Mrs Savage, aged 50, with four children, may have to sell her house.

any confidence that something similar could not and would not happen again. Fierceness is a very dangerous quality, which some of us possess, but which some of us possess and cannot control."

Some of Mrs Savage's evidence on the case, where she said she failed to read a note saying that there was evidence of foetal distress in the baby and had allowed the labour to continue was "incredible", Mr Kennedy said.

She had described reacting angrily when she had heard her senior registrar telling the couple that a caesarean was necessary, something every expert witness had said was the only sensible course. It was the action of "a crusader, and a crusader with perhaps a rather sharp temper as well, which is altogether a dangerous combination".

Mr Kennedy said the issue was not about philosophies of care such as Mrs Savage's admirable commitment to try to achieve vaginal rather than caesarean deliveries or her commitment to the "excellent principle" of community care for expectant mothers. It was about "the safety in practice of

those principles", and a question of judgement.

"It is the question that her great zeal for her admirable principles allows her to continue with attempts towards vaginal delivery in cases where no other practitioner that we have heard would have so continued."

Her approach left disorder behind her. "If a consultant gives unclear, incomplete or confusing instructions or gives instructions without acquainting himself fully of the facts or goes away without ensuring that a position is left which the juniors can properly follow, not dealing with a case personally when it is time for the captain to be on the bridge, then that speaks of incompetence."

Junior doctors had telephoned other consultants rather than her for advice about her cases because they were unhappy with her approach, he said.

Mr Kennedy denied that the inquiry into the cases had been "engineered by a conspiracy" of her fellow consultants. Their concern, which led to most of them refusing to cover her cases, was a true concern.

From an affidavit by Professor Peter Huntingford, who was Mrs Savage's professor at the London Hospital prior to the appointment of Professor Jurge Grudzinski in 1983, it was clear it was "quite wrong" to suggest that all the difficulties that have arisen at the London Hospital have arisen through the machinations of her colleagues.

It was "remarkable", he said, that Professor Huntingford had not been called as the man who had wanted to appoint her.

The hearing ends today.



Olympic sprinter Kathy Cook with the insignia of the MBE she received yesterday.

Sporting honours

Kathy Cook, the international sprinter, received the insignia of MBE from the Prince of Wales yesterday and said: "This is not just for me, but for all women in athletics."

Kathy, aged 25, from Churchbridge, near Canons, Staffordshire, was created an MBE in the New Year Honours for services to athletics. She was Olympic 400 metres bronze medal winner in

1984. When she told the Prince that she was training for the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh this summer he replied: "I hope it will be a gold this time."

But Miss Cook and her husband could not celebrate the investiture. She was in training for a women's invitation 200 metre event today at Cosford, near Wolverhampton.

TT Formula One world motor-cycle champion Joey Dunlop also received the insignia of the MBE from the Prince.

Last season the rider, aged 34, from Ballymoney, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland, captured his fourth successive TT Formula One world title by winning all six rounds of the championship.

Athletics preview, page 36

New authority to manage Broads

The Government is to set up an authority with extensive powers to manage the Broads area of Norfolk and Suffolk on the lines of a national park.

The authority will bring the management of both land and water under the control of a statutory body, funded jointly by the Countryside Commis-

sion and local authorities. Announcing the decision yesterday in a Commons written reply, Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for the Environment, told Mr Richard Ryder, Conservative MP for Mid-Norfolk: "This is a nationally important area for landscape, nature conserva-

tion and recreation. "We are convinced that if the steady decline of its ecology is to be reversed the arrangements for managing the land and water resources of this unique area must be put on a statutory basis."

The Government will present its own Bill

Prostitute aged 8 put in care

A girl aged eight involved in prostitution appeared before a juvenile court at Wolverhampton yesterday.

The girl had been seen by vice squad police officers operating in the town's red light district. She was in the company of known prostitutes and was seen to get into a car driven by a man with one of the prostitutes. Money was seen to have changed hands. But it is not known whether she kept the money or handed it to the prostitute.

Mrs Sheila Bull, a legal officer with Wolverhampton council, told the magistrates that they were very concerned about the girl's future and her activities in the vice area. She applied to the court for an interim care order for 28 days which was granted by the bench.

After the case Mrs Bull said: "One does not like anyone to get involved in that scene but at eight years of age it is obscene."

She said that she believed the girl was familiar with Wolverhampton's vice area and she had been going there on her own. The police were checking other reports of the girl being involved in vice activities.

Mrs Bull told the court that they were very concerned about the girl's activities in the red light district and worried about her long-term future.

She said that her parents had no control over her and it was important that she was not exposed to prostitution. She added: "We have information that the girl is left to get on as she pleases by her parents. She has a degree of freedom."

It is understood that the police learnt about the girl's activities from other prostitutes arrested in the vice area.

Luce halts export of Raphael cartoon

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

A Raphael cartoon, valued at about £1 million, has been sold by Lord Coke to the National Gallery, Washington, but the issue of an export licence has been delayed for six months on the instructions of Mr Richard Luce, the Arts Minister.

The delay is intended to give a British institution time to try to raise the purchase price.

The large black chalk drawing was a preparation for the painting "La Belle Jardinière", which is in the Louvre. It is the same size as the painting (940mm by 668mm) and is pricked along the main outlines so that Raphael could pounce the design on to the canvas.

The drawing was the first genuine Raphael to reach a British collection in the eighteenth century. It was bought by Lord Leicester and was part of the great art collection round which he built Holkham Hall, in Norfolk.

The drawing's thin paper has become very discoloured after hanging for nearly three centuries at Holkham, and the composition is difficult to distinguish. Lord Coke said yesterday that Washington had sent experts to Britain and that it thought restoration possible.

He added that he had not yet been approached by any interested British institution.

The two paintings to be sold at Christie's were also bought by the first Lord Leicester. Christie's expects a price of about £500,000 for "The Adoration of the Magi" a seventeenth-century work by Mattia Preti, and a striking Mannerist panel by Amico Aspertini, the Bolognese artist, who lived from 1475-1552, is expected to fetch more than £300,000.

£8,550 for woman's lost cuddle

Mrs Anne Mason-Apps, aged 31, an air hostess who cannot face her husband in bed for a goodnight cuddle because of injuries suffered in a car accident, won £8,550 damages in the High Court in London yesterday.

The former Miss Personality of Manchester also gave up planned promotional work for her employer, British Airways, after being left scarred in the accident in April 1983 while crossing the Bath Road outside Heathrow airport.

Mr Justice Caulfield, making the award, said she gets embarrassed by the scars left on her face and also suffers headaches. She also avoids sunbathing because the scars do not tan.

The judge ordered the driver, Mr Paul Hayden Applegarth, of Moormeade Park, Staines, Middlesex, to pay the damages. He had denied liability.

After the hearing Mrs Mason-Apps, of Springfield Cottages, Star Lane, Knowl Hill, near Reading, Berkshire, said: "I am relieved it is all over and happy with the damages."

Rajneesh banned from entering UK

Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, the Indian guru banned from the United States, was yesterday refused entry to Britain.

He was held by immigration officials at Heathrow airport overnight after arriving from Crete in a private jet, and left at lunchtime, the Home Office said. "He was refused entry because his presence in this country would not have been conducive to the public good," a spokesman said, adding: "I am not prepared as yet to say where he has now gone."

Rajneesh, known as the "Guru of the Rich", was ordered out of Greece after staying at the home of a film director in eastern Crete.

He had originally been ordered to stay out of the United States for five years after paying a \$400,000 fine to the Government for breaking immigration laws. He was said to have arranged sham marriages to get his recruits into the country.

Ramblers get walks register

By Hugh Clayton
Environment Correspondent

A computerized walks register was opened yesterday in the hope of bringing order to the growing chaos of the nation's long-distance public footpaths.

Mr Roy Hickey, a rights-of-way specialist with the Countryside Commission, said that the devising of long-distance footpaths by stringing several existing paths together had become a national pastime.

But work on such paths often went no further than plotting them on a map. The result was that some so-called long-distance paths were routed through unsuitable land, Mr Hickey said at the opening of the Long-Distance Walkers' Association's computerized advisory service for compilers of footpaths of at least 20 miles in length.

The archive already has details of more than 300 such paths. Its purpose is to show the prospective creators of new paths where they will cross existing ones and to help compilers to avoid planning new paths offering no advantage over existing ones.



LPO picks conductor

Carl Davis (above), aged 49, becomes principal conductor of the London Philharmonic Orchestra in September, 1987.

During the past 25 years he has composed music for every medium, from a score for the silent film, Napoleon, triumph on his revival in 1980, to the new ballet, Fire and Ice, for Terrell and Dean, to be shown on London Weekend Television at the end of the year.

Mensa's 'ultimate' game

The latest chic parlour game, designed for the sharp intellects of Mensa members, is attracting players by the dozen.

It is the inspiration of Iain Sinclair, a brother of Sir Clive Sinclair, the home computer giant and himself a member of Mensa. Design Marketing, which manufactures the game, says that the response has encouraged it to bring forward plans to offer the game to the public.

The objective of the game, called "Mensa Steps", is to reach the top of a stepped sculpture by answering IQ questions. Players go through seven levels of complexity. There is one question for level one, two for level two, and so on up to seven for the top level. Successful players receive from the manufacturers a chrome statue to place on the relevant step.

Mr Harold Gale, executive director of British Mensa, said: "The response from our members underlines my belief that this is the ultimate brain-teaser game."

The starter kit, which consists of the steps, the first chrome figure and level-two questions, costs £22.95.

Starters must first answer a qualifying problem: 9 5 12 6 = 12. Missing between each of the numbers is the correct arithmetic symbol, +, -, x or ÷.

Answers to Design Marketing Ltd, London House, London Street, Andover, Hampshire SP10 2QX.

Six face trial over riot death of PC

Three men and three juveniles accused of murdering Police Constable Keith Blakelock during the Tottenham riot in north London last October were committed by Highbury magistrates yesterday for trial at the Central Criminal Court. All are further charged with riot. They are:

Winston Silcott, aged 25, of Broadwater Farm Estate, Tottenham; Mark Braithwaite, aged 18 of Cannonbury Villas, Islington; Engin Ragnip, aged 19, of Farnidge Way, Wood Green; and two juveniles aged 14 and one aged 15. Braithwaite and Ragnip also face a charge of affray.

BBC takes all the top TV awards

Independent television companies were left out in the cold yesterday when top television awards were made by the broadcasting Press Guild.

The BBC took all eight performance and programme-making awards.

The only consolation for the commercial stations was a single award for Channel Four - and that was for the best imported programme, the American comedy Cheers.

The BBC's political thriller Edge of Darkness, was named the best drama series and its star, Bob Peck, shared the best actor award with Ben Kingsley, for his performance in Siles Marner.

The War Game, made by Peter Watkins in 1965 but banned from the television screens for 20 years, was eventually shown on BBC last year and won a top award for the best single drama.

Bob Geldof, the Live Aid organizer who had made the most outstanding contribution to television in front of the cameras in a non-acting capacity.

The BBC's political thriller Edge of Darkness, was named the best drama series and its star, Bob Peck, shared the best actor award with Ben Kingsley, for his performance in Siles Marner.

Radio Four took both the radio awards. Mary Goldring, presenter of the current affairs series Analysis, was named for her outstanding personal contribution to radio, and the outstanding programme contribution award went to The Thatcher Phenomenon.

BBC Television's other awards were best single documentary, Simon's Peace; best documentary series, Conrades; best arts programme, Arena; best performance by an actress, Mary Steenburgen for Tender is the Night; and best comedy or light entertainment programme, Victoria Wood (As Seen On TV).

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Mass starvation and Aids outbreak 'would follow nuclear war'

By Richard Dowden

Billions of people would starve to death in a worldwide catastrophe as a result of nuclear war, the British Medical Association said in a report published yesterday.

The report raises the spectre of a change as cataclysmic as that which exterminated the dinosaurs, when it is thought a large meteorite struck the earth, causing an explosion which covered the world in a dust cloud.

In the short term, crop production would be impossible if sunlight levels were reduced by 50 per cent as a result of debris thrown up by nuclear explosions, the report says. There would also be a big increase in Aids-related diseases and cancers.

Based on recent research into the "nuclear winter" which would follow a war, the report paints a picture "of a worldwide catastrophe incomparably worse even than that which emerges by simple extrapolation from the devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It is an entirely fresh portrait of human suffering on an almost inconceivable scale."

The United Kingdom.

which imports much of its food, would be extremely vulnerable. "It cannot fail to strike any reviewer of the literature on nuclear winter how silent the UK Government has been on the nuclear winter issue."

The report urges the Government to assist the United States and the Soviet Union in their studies on the nuclear winter and suggests that Britain undertake a study of its own.

It concludes: "Only if a large proportion of the population of the UK were killed in the attack would there be enough food for the survivors. Distribution difficulties and radioactive fallout would limit the availability of remaining food supplies. Quite small climatic changes in the appropriate seasons could prevent the growth of future crops. Climatic effects on agriculture in other countries, and the disruption of international trade could prevent the import of food needed to keep survivors alive."

irradiation in humans... a marked increase in Aids-related diseases should be anticipated among such survivors."

In addition radiation could cause genetic diseases and a 17 per cent increase in cancer.

The study is based on recent research from a number of sources and although it admits that "a precise numerical description of the long-term consequences of a large-scale nuclear war is impossible", it concludes that a climatic change is likely.

The long-term biological changes resulting from climatic changes may be at least as serious as the immediate ones.

A previous BMA report, *The Medical Effects of Nuclear War*, published in 1983, was denounced as "quite irresponsible" by Mr Michael Heseltine, then Secretary of State for Defence, and as "distorted" by the Home Office.

Although the new report says that it should not be interpreted as a view for or against nuclear disarmament, it says that people should be made aware of the long-term consequences of nuclear war.

The Long Term Environmental and Medical Effects of Nuclear War, Board of Science and Education of the British Medical Association, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP, £5.00.



The Bath Pump Room Trio striking a note for Britain's second most popular tourist attraction when it opened again on Thursday after an £80,000 restoration programme which took two months to complete.

Alistair Hinton (piano), Sheena Power (cello), and Michael Evans (violin) were among the first to see the pristine chandelier, the repainted grey, white and blue decor and restored gold leaf. A million visitors are expected this year, making the Pump Room, two centuries old, second in popularity only to the Tower of London.

The work was completed on time and was £10,000 below budget. All that is awaited is the return of the curtains.

'Cowboy' builders to feel long arm of law

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

A Bill to reform the law so that individuals can sue builders or professional advisers for negligent work, although the damage is not discovered until many years later, was published by the Lord Chancellor yesterday.

The Latent Damage Bill aims to remove uncertainty and potential injustice in the existing law which may occur, for example, when a builder acts negligently in constructing a building or where professional business advice is given which, years later, proves to be unsound.

Sometimes serious damage may be suffered by the client many years later, but under the present law of limitation, negligent claims cannot be brought after six years from the date on which the damage occurred.

The Bill will provide a much longer period in which individuals in such cases can bring a claim, by allowing a further three years from the date when the individual knew, or should have known, about the damage.

It will also provide a safeguard to builders and others who otherwise could face proceedings many years after their work was completed.

This will be done by bringing in a "long-stop", barring proceedings after 15 years from the original negligent act. At present the law can be unfair to such defendants. Builders and professional advisers have no way of knowing when they take on work, how long they may remain liable. They can have difficulty obtaining insurance cover in those circumstances, and also face problems defending an action based on a stale claim many years after the event that gave rise to it.

The Bill, which is based on recommendations by the Government's Law Reform Committee, will also give a right of action to a person who acquires already-damaged property, when the fact of damage is not known and could not be known.

Alliance's plan for the North

Plans to create 90,000 jobs in the North-west were disclosed yesterday by leaders of the Liberal-SDP Alliance.

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, and Mrs Shirley Williams, SDP president, outlined proposals at a news conference in Manchester to reduce the area's unemployment queue of 450,000 as part of the Alliance's national Worksearch campaign.

Mrs Williams accused the Government of ripping apart the area and blamed high unemployment on Mrs Thatcher's policies and the Labour Party.

Mr Steel said it cost £6,500 a year to keep a person unemployed and the Alliance's alternative Budget, to be announced next week, would call for £5 billion to be spent reducing unemployment.

Among the recommendations in the Worksearch campaign are the transfer of employment policy and money from Whitehall to elected regional bodies.

Reporters' clients listed for MPs

By Stephen Goodwin, Political Staff

Journalists working at Parliament will be asked next week to declare the names of all their clients in a drive to stamp out the supply of inside information to companies and pressure groups.

About 250 newspaper and agency reporters and broadcasters work at the Palace of Westminster and some run lucrative sidelines working for non-journalistic organizations.

An all-party select committee has drawn up a letter to be sent to journalists and informants to be sought, after a decision by the Commons last December.

Lobby and press gallery journalists will have to declare the name of the employer on whose behalf they were issued the pass necessary to gain entry to the palace and list any other paid work where their privileged access is relevant.

Journalists will be required to name consultancies and public relations companies from whom they receive any fee, as well as press and broadcasting clients.

Replies are expected to be in the hands of the authorities by the end of the Easter recess on April 8, after which a register of their interests will be placed in the Commons library.

MPs will be able to study the register, but it will not be open to the public and photocopies will not be permitted.

Mr Roy Mason, former Labour Cabinet minister, told the Commons when it debated the issue that the register was necessary because of "nefarious, dubious, money-making activities" by some journalists and research assistants, abusing their privileged access.

Members' secretaries and research assistants, about 1,200 people, will also be required to declare any additional "painful occupation" which a House of Commons pass affords them.

£16m paid out

A total of £16,807,617 was paid last year in compensation under Northern Ireland's criminal damage legislation, Mr Nicholas Scott, Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said in a Commons written reply yesterday.

Missing children hunt

Michael Kemp, aged 47, was being sought yesterday after disappearing with five of his 22 children.

The missing children, aged from two to eight, have been made wards of court by the London borough of Southwark which was supervising Mr Kemp and the children when they disappeared three months ago.

Judge tells arsonist to appeal

A judge jailed an arsonist for 33 months yesterday - and immediately advised him to appeal against the sentence.

Judge Leo Clark, at Oxford Crown Court, told Graham Gieger: "I have no doubt that the right place for you is in the secure walls of a hospital, but unfortunately no place is available."

"In the circumstances, there is absolutely no alternative for me but a sentence of imprisonment. I recognize that this is not the most satisfactory way of dealing with you."

"I hope that you will appeal against the sentence because it sometimes happens that facilities are made available that will enable you to be dealt with in a different way. I can only say that I hope that happens."

The court heard that Gieger, aged 37, of Somerton, Oxfordshire, was arrested last November after a bar fire which caused more than £16,000 worth of damage.

Gieger, who is unemployed, was on probation at the time for other offences, including arson attempts.

Attempt to recoup NHS drug profits

By Robin Young

The Department of Health and Social Security is negotiating with American drug companies to recoup millions of pounds in excess profits made on sales to the National Health Service.

A spokesman dismissed as "rubbish" reports that the Government had offered to accept £25 million from the American pharmaceutical industry association, the ABPI.

"We are still in the midst of confidential negotiations and do not offer to accept any specific sum has been made," he said yesterday.

"The issues involved are extremely complicated, but the object of our negotiations is to ensure that we pay no more than is due under the pharmaceutical price regulation scheme."

Boy given promise of replay

Manchester United said yesterday it would try to rearrange the charity football match for a leukemia victim aged five which was ruined by a hoax caller.

Christopher Buckingham, of Falcon Court, Grantham, who is having a bone marrow transplant next week, was due to kick off a charity match on Thursday night between Manchester United and the local Grantham team.

But a hoax caller told United officials at Old Trafford that the match was off because Grantham's floodlights had failed. When United failed to arrive, a match between Grantham first team and the reserves was hastily arranged.

United's manager, Mr Ron Atkinson, said he was disgusted by the hoax call.

Royal support for figurative art

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

Decorative British paintings of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, and traditional figurative styles, have suddenly become one of the strongest sectors of the picture market, aided by the interest of a few wealthy American collectors and a new high-profile buyer in the person of Princess Michael of Kent.

There was a rash of unlooked-for high prices at Christie's sale on Thursday afternoon and more followed in yesterday morning's sale.

Sir Alfred Munnings, the best of British horse painters of the twentieth century, is popular both with Americans and princesses. "Off to the Fair" of 1912, a boy riding downhill with a group of horses towards the tents of a fair, sold for £77,760 (estimate £15,000-£20,000) with Princess Michael underbidding on behalf of MacDonnell Mason, the company she works for.

It was bought by an unnamed bidder, who also paid the top price in the sale at £118,800 (estimate £60,000-£90,000) for Munnings' "A Michaelmas Sale on a Suffolk Farm" of 1900.

A painting of "The Nottingham Boat Club, 1894" by Arthur Spooner, a very fine atmospheric rendering of the members getting their boat out to the river, by a little-known artist, sold on its sheer decorative quality for £91,800.

(estimate £25,000-£35,000) to Richard Green, the London dealer, against strong interest from America. The price set an auction price record for the artist, as did the £75,600 (estimate £20,000-£30,000) for Joseph Edward Southall's "The Nut Brown Maid" of 1902-04, a medieval scene in Pre-Raphaelite mood.

Princess Michael made one successful purchase, Harold Harvey's "Morning Sunshine" of 1911 at £23,760 (estimate £20,000-£25,000); two young girls walking across a sunlit meadow by a popular Newlyn School artist. The sale totalled £115 million with 8 per cent unsold.

Christie's offered more abstract, "modernist", work in yesterday's sale of twentieth century British paintings, but again it was the traditional works that proved most popular. Spencer Gore's "Behind the Blind" of 1906, a girl seated at her dressing-table, made the top price at £28,080 (estimate £10,000-£15,000). The sale totalled £379,609, with 15 per cent unsold.

The Victoria Cross and other medals awarded to Field-Marshal Sir George White, the hero of the Siege of Ladysmith, was sold at Sotheby's on Thursday afternoon for £60,500 (estimate £30,000-£60,000) to the Gordon Highlanders in Edinburgh. Sir George won his VC during the Second Afghan War. It is the second highest price on record for a Victoria Cross.

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9.00% NET	= 12.86% NET	£500-£4,999

Moneywise - Cheque Account & Visa Card

9.80% NET	= 14.00% NET	Balance £20,000 and over
9.50% NET	= 13.57% NET	£10,000-£19,999
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PARLIAMENT MARCH 7 1986

Wapping move condemned

went on strike at Mr Rupert Murdoch's newspapers virtually dismissed themselves.

The employment rights of British workers (the continued) are being undermined with every hour that the Wapping dispute continues.

Mr Michael Foot (Bleasun Green, Lab) said it was the duty of the House of Commons to try to find an honourable escape from the Wapping dispute.

It had allowed Mr Murdoch and other employers to construct a chain of limited companies to create a legal fiction of separation.

Because a chain of small private limited companies had been erected between them, even when the same work was being done for the same employer, a situation was created where the words "secondary action" could be brought into play.

Trade unionists at Wapping had had their jobs taken away from under their noses and they had no claims whatever, no remedies against their employer.

The Prime Minister had constantly urged employers to use anti-union legislation to bring workers to heel.

Industrial relations

Early end to tin crisis unlikely

It seemed unlikely at this stage that a settlement in the tin crisis could be reached to secure a return to orderly trading, Mr Alan Clark, Minister for Trade, said in a Commons statement following the collapse of the months-long attempt to rescue the international tin market.

He said that had the tin countries collectively shown greater urgency and responsibility from the outset, a solution might have been found. If a substantial number of tin countries were prepared to make an effort to resolve the crisis, the British Government would be willing to join discussions, but was not prepared alone to take over responsibility for tin deals.

Mr David Harris (St Ives, C) said it was a tragedy that, having got so far, the negotiations had broken down. There were tremendous justifications for the future of London as a commodity trading centre, big implications for the third world, and worrying implications for the Cornish tin industry.

Mr Clark: The United Kingdom has played a leading part in the attempt to achieve a solution.

Mr Alan Williams (Swansea, W est), an Opposition spokesman on trade, said the Government had nothing positive to put forward. The collapse must have been a strong possibility throughout the four months of negotiation.

Since many commodity brokers dealt in other commodities, there could be repercussions beyond the market in tin and put at risk the whole of the London Metal Exchange.

Shipbuilding

Minister accepts worker buy-out

Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, told the Commons he had given his consent to the sale of Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering Limited to the VSEL Employee Consortium plc. Their offer (he said) consists of a downpayment of £60 million together with a profit-sharing arrangement for the period 1986-92 which should provide British shipbuilders with further payments of up to £40 million in 1992 and 1993.

The Consortium had undertaken to complete and fund the rest of the work on the submarine facilities project which would modernize the production facilities at VSEL and enable the company to complete the Trident programme in accordance with Ministry of Defence requirements.

On Wednesday the consortium gave the ministry an undertaking that it would negotiate a contract for the first Trident submarine on terms, programme and price, conditions which represented a significant improvement to the MoD on the terms previously offered by VSEL while it remained under the control of British Shipbuilders.

The Consortium was not the only bid for VSEL. The commercial terms of the other bid were judged by British Shipbuilders and their financial advisers, so far as they affected British Shipbuilders, to be superior to those of the Consortium's bid.

But (he went on) there is a further term in the other bid, which I am bound not to disclose without the bidder's permission, which I found very difficult to accept.

Mr Channon said he was sure this provides a very good assurance. Mr Christopher Chope (Southampton, I tchen, C) said the Government's confidence in the North West, the premier submarine builder of the nation could look with great confidence to the twenty-first century.

Sir Anthony Bick (Colchester North, C) asked Mr Channon to confirm that this solution provided the best chance of the submarine on time and on cost. Mr Channon said he was sure this provides a very good assurance. Mr Christopher Chope (Southampton, I tchen, C) said the Government's confidence in the North West, the premier submarine builder of the nation could look with great confidence to the twenty-first century.

Timetable of the crackdown

1985
July 21: Emergency imposed in 36 magisterial districts, 19 in Johannesburg region and 17 in Eastern Cape.
August 8: Serious rioting in Indian and African townships round Durban.
August 15: President Botha fails to announce expected reforms at party congress in Durban, setting off run on the rand.
August 28: Serious rioting spreads to Western Cape.
Sept 1: Pretoria freezes debt repayments and imposes exchange controls as foreign banks call in loans and rand plunges.
October 15: Police shoot dead at least three in "decoy truck" incident in Athlone, coloured suburb of Cape Town, provoking fresh violence.
October 25: Emergency lifted in six districts, two in Johannesburg region and four in Eastern Cape.
October 26: Emergency extended to eight districts in Western Cape, including Cape Town.
November 2: Curbs imposed on television and newspaper coverage of unrest in emergency areas.
November 3: Jailed ANC leader Nelson Mandela undergoes prostate surgery, fueling rumours of his release on "humanitarian" grounds.
November 21: Police fire on crowd of 50,000 in Mamelodi township near Pretoria, killing 19.
December 3: Emergency lifted in eight districts, three in Johannesburg region and five in Eastern Cape.
December 23: Bomb in beach-front shopping centre outside Durban kills five whites.
1986
January 2: Violence breaks out in Moutse, north of Pretoria, over government plan to transfer part of one tribal "homeland" to another.
January 31: Opening Parliament, President Botha promises to abolish "pass laws" by July 1 and offers "national statutory council" for negotiations with black leaders.
February 7: Emergency lifted in seven districts: three in Eastern Cape and four in Western Cape.
February 14: Riots in Alexandra, black ghetto in northern Johannesburg. At least 23 people killed over next few days, mostly by police.
February 20: Interim agreement with foreign bankers on debt repayments.
March 7: Emergency suspended in 23 districts, four in Western Cape, five in Eastern Cape and 14 in Johannesburg region.

Botha frees most detainees and restrictions lifted

From Michael Hornsby Johannesburg

South Africa's state of emergency was yesterday suspended in its entirety, in the 23 magisterial districts where it was still in force, by a proclamation published in the Government Gazette and signed by President Botha.
One of the effects of the suspension is that the curbs on television and press coverage, imposed on November 2 last year as part of the emergency, are also lifted.

But Mr Louis Nel, the Deputy Minister of Information, said the police would continue to "exercise whatever legal control they are entitled to in terms of existing legislation". This appears to put the situation back to where it was before the emergency. There are many pieces of legislation under which reporting, particularly of police and military affairs, is restricted. The police also have wide ad hoc discretion to control on-the-spot reporting of unrest.

As if to demonstrate that the Government is not weakening, Mr Stoffel Botha, the Minister of Home Affairs, yesterday told three crew

The ANC has withdrawn two officials from Botswana after talks with the country's authorities, Radio Botswana said (Reuter reports from Gaborone).
President Quett Masire said in a statement broadcast last night that the officials would leave Botswana because their security could no longer be guaranteed. The move followed talks in Lusaka between Mr Oliver Tambo, the ANC leader, Botswana's President Pheko Masire, and President Kamuda of Zambia.

members of America's CBS television network that they must leave South Africa before midnight next Tuesday.
The three are to meet with their lawyer and the Minister on Monday in Cape Town.
Under the terms of the emergency - imposed on July 21 last year and lasting 229 days - 7,996 persons, of whom the overwhelming majority were black and more than 2,100 were under the age of 16, were detained by police. According to the police, 327 were still in detention on Thursday. But most of these, including more than 70 mem-

bers of the United Democratic Front Anti-Apartheid Movement, were released around midnight that night. However a police spokesman said an undisclosed number would continue to be held and may be charged with public violence and other crimes.
The emergency extended the power of arrest without a warrant - normally reserved for high-ranking officers - to every member of the force, railway police, the prison service and the army. It gave them immunity against prosecution for any action carried out "in good faith".
Indemnity against prosecution now lapses but the police still retain very wide powers to arrest and detain, without trial for indefinite periods, persons they deem to be a threat to national security under various sections of the Internal Security Act.

President Botha signalled his intention to lift the emergency when addressing a special session of Parliament last Tuesday. He said that while sporadic violence was continuing, the overall situation had improved sufficiently to warrant the suspension.
It is probably true that the number of violent incidents



Mr Murcheson Morobe, publicity secretary of the UDF, receives a jubilant welcome from supporters in Johannesburg after being freed yesterday.

has dropped but there has been no decline in the loss of life. Figures collated from press and police reports by the South African Institute of Race Relations show that 757 people died during the emergency - about 3.3 a day.
This compares with a rate of 1.7 deaths in a day during the period of 1985 preceding the emergency. Last month 107

people were killed compared with 96 last July, the month the emergency was imposed. The police reported six more deaths nationally in the 24 hours before the emergency was lifted.
Somewhere between 50 and 60 per cent of deaths were caused by police action but nearly a third were blacks

killed by other blacks. The intercommunal aspect of black violence tended to increase as the emergency wore on.
At its height, the emergency was in force in 38 magisterial districts in the Johannesburg region and the Western and Eastern Cape. It affected nearly a third of the country's population.

Big rebel defeat claimed by Chad

Ndjamena (AP) - Chad's Government said its troops killed 864 rebels and captured 456 in Wednesday's fighting in the Umm Chalouba-Kalait region, for the loss of eight dead and 46 wounded.

About 50 rebel vehicles were destroyed and 70 others, some carrying rockets or heavy cannons, captured together with lorries, an ambulance and three armoured cars.
It said the rebels were chased a considerable distance back across the desert.

Tourists die

Nairobi (AP) - Nine West German tourists, including seven women, and a Kenyan pilot were killed when their plane crashed during a trip to a game park.

1.3% inflation

Bern (AP) - Switzerland's inflation rate fell to 1.3 per cent last month, the lowest level in seven years. It was 2.2 per cent in January.

Fiery birth

Singapore (Reuter) - A pregnant woman snatched two sleeping children from their blazing home just hours before giving birth to a son.

Rope ends it

Tokyo (Reuter) - A Japanese schoolboy, aged 14, wrote "sayonara (goodbye), ask the teacher for more details," before hanging himself with a nylon rope from a public bridge after being bullied.

Gas talks

Tehran (Reuter) - Soviet and Iranian officials are to meet here next month to discuss the restarting of Iran's gas exports to the Soviet Union and other joint economic projects.

Super-birds

Warsaw (Reuter) - Well-preserved remains of ancient giant penguins six feet tall have been discovered by Polish scientists working on Seymour Islands in the Antarctic, according to the official Polish news agency.

Lorry decree

Athens - The Greek Government ordered the requisition and mobilization of 40,000 lorries, whose striking owners face military discipline if they disobey. The strike, in its third week, has caused food and fuel shortages.

Free on bail

Athens - Mr Edgerton Duckworth, a retired British embassy commercial attaché living in Athens, who was charged with illegal possession of firearms last week, was freed on £300 bail yesterday.

Begin end

Jerusalem (AP) - Israel's right-wing Herut party opens its first assembly in eight years tomorrow, to choose a party leader to replace Mr Menachem Begin, aged 72, the former prime minister and party founder who lives in self-imposed seclusion.

Gorbachov plays on US nerves over summit date

From Christopher Walker Moscow

As Soviet workmen yesterday began removing the sea of red banners which have brightened Moscow streets during the 27th Communist Party Congress, Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Kremlin leader, was to mark its close by switching attention from domestic to foreign concerns.

Soviet sources said they expected that the unprecedented debate over the special privileges of party members would now die down, as it had been made clear at the nine-day congress that some of the most radical reforms being demanded from the grassroots on this most sensitive issue would not be implemented.

Top of the Kremlin's crowded international agenda and a subject of increasing diplomatic worry among the Western allies is its continuing failure to come even close to an agreement with Washington on a date this year for the second superpower summit.
During his 25-minute closing address, Mr Gorbachov delivered another hint that he is prepared to continue playing brinkmanship with the date to try to secure guarantees from the White House that some firm deals on arms control will emerge in Washington. "What should we do? Slam the door?" he asked the 5,000 delegates. "It is not ruled out that we will be pushed to do just that."

One newly promoted official whose advice on the issue is expected to be crucial is Mr Anatoly Dobrynin, the Ambassador to Washington for more than 20 years, who is now due back in the Kremlin to play a key role in formulating foreign policy as one of 11



members of the Central Committee's secretariat.

Mr Dobrynin, aged 66, was once described by Dr Henry Kissinger, the former US Secretary of State, as one of the few Soviet diplomats with a keen insight into the psychology of Westerners. In Moscow, he is expected to advise Mr Gorbachov on developing the Kremlin's play of using other world governments to bring influence to bear on the US on disarmament.

No successor has yet been named for the affable Mr Dobrynin, who first presented his diplomatic credentials to the President Kennedy in March 1962, only months before the world came to the brink of war over the Cuban missile crisis. One name circulating here yesterday was Mr Viktor Komplexov, aged 52, head of the US department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry.
On the wider stage, 1986 is due to see Mr Gorbachov's first trips as Kremlin leader to India, Italy and Greece - probably in that order. All are certain to be exploited by the well-oiled Kremlin public relations machine to whip up international backing for the grandiose world disarmament scheme unveiled here on January 15.

Western experts expect Mr Gorbachov to live up to his congress promise to quicken the pace of Moscow's improvement ties with Peking. But progress is likely to be limited as long as the Red Army remains in Afghanistan.

Filipinos amass evidence of torture under Marcos

From Michael Hamlyn, Manila

As more than 500 political prisoners are slowly released back into society, the Filipinos are amassing testimony which they believe will show that under President Ferdinand Marcos torture was systematically used to harass and terrorize the population.

The accounts of torture are being collated by a group calling itself Philippine Action Concerning Torture (Pact), itself an offshoot of a group of doctors who advised, examined and testified for victims of torture during the worst days of the oppression.
The chairman of Pact, Dr Jane Pagadanan Lopez, a professor of psychiatry at the University of the Philippines, said yesterday: "We want to establish whether detention and torture were one and the same. My own empirical view based on the patients I have seen is that there is a pattern. These are not isolated instances of psychopathic soldiers overstepping their duties. There was an intention to use this as a method of repression."

Pact is also studying and treating former detainees for the after-effects of torture, which in many cases are severe. Dr Lopez's own patients include a young woman who was repeatedly gang-raped by her captors, and who for days afterwards was kept naked and unattended.
She came to Dr Lopez

suffering from unexplained skin infections. "She felt filthy and dirty about herself after the gang-rape," he said. After two years of psychotherapy the condition has cleared up.
Sexual torture - particularly rape, or the threat of it - was widely used against women detainees. A pressure group organized by heads of religious organizations, Task Force Detainees, has documented a number of cases, including that of Miss Nena Estil, aged 22, who over three days in July last year was repeatedly raped and eventually shot by members of the 51st Infantry Battalion assigned to Task Force Cobra in northern Mindanao.

Mrs Marichu Tobia, aged 32, who was detained for more than a year until last November, said that after she herself was tortured and her companions, who later became known as the Pangasinan Seven, were held incommunicado and were repeatedly tortured.
"I was stripped naked and my private parts were pinched and massaged," she said. "My nipples were twisted and so was a scar I have from a Caesarean operation. I was beaten on the head and face."

The most common physical torture used against detainees, who were almost always held in secret in safe houses before "surfacing" in detention camps, was unsystematic beating, but systematic beating

was also used, and the telephone and the falanga, widely used in Latin America were also employed here.
The falanga - repeated beating on the soles of the feet - can leave the victim permanently lame with atrophied muscles. The telephone - banging on both ears simultaneously - can permanently impair hearing. The telephone was known in the Philippines by the name of a local hand-slapping children's game, pompingang.

A peculiarly Filipino torture was one known as the San Juanico Bridge, named after the country's longest bridge. The victim was forced to lie suspended with his head on one chair and his feet on another and to keep himself rigid. From time to time his torturers would stamp on him, forcing his collapse.

Since many victims were tortured only in the early part of their detention many bore no physical marks when they were released. But Dr Lopez's organization is embarking on a series of home visits to search for the hidden symptoms and psychological effects.
But the most common after-effects of torture are psychological. "Depression is most common," Dr Lopez said. "The victims suffer a deep-seated rage over their helplessness. This becomes internalized and directed against the self."

Cardinal charms London press

Cardinal Sin, Archbishop of Manila and hero of the Filipino revolution, yesterday proved his reputation as a wise, witty and wily man (Nicholas Ashford writes).
Despite a frail build and a heavy beard, he dealt with journalists' questions as deftly as a seasoned politician when he attended a press conference

shortly after his arrival in London on a two-day visit.
He is in Britain at the invitation of Cardinal Hume and will minister to the 20,000 strong Filipino community in this country.
Cardinal Sin left no doubt about his support and admiration for President Aquino, an old family friend whose vic-

tory was largely secured through the intervention of the Filipino Catholic Church.
He said he was convinced that the Communists and other rebels who have been fighting a guerrilla war against the Marcos regime would lay down their arms "now that we have a sincere and honest president."

Nasa tells of forced tank joint

Cape Canaveral (UPI) - Nasa engineers told the Rogers Commission yesterday that a joint between two fuel segments of the ill-fated Challenger's suspect right-side rocket booster was not perfectly round during assembly and extra force had to be applied to get it into shape.
Mr Robert Lang, a Nasa engineer, said technicians had trouble getting the two lower segments of Challenger's right-side booster to join.

A rupture through that joint triggered the explosion of the tank, destroying the spacecraft and killing the crew of seven. Officials have said that O-ring seals in the joint may have been damaged during the assembly process.
Documents presented to the commission yesterday charted a variety of possible failures most centring on problems with the O-rings.
Documents showed that four measurements made on the upper segment of the two in question on December 6 were unacceptable. Initially, the fuel segment was 0.512 inches out of round.
Mr Lang said engineers tried to force the segment into shape by suspending it from cranes and allowing the weight of the propellant inside to smooth out the joint's roundness. That did not work and a hydraulic tool was used.

Contra aid seen as Reagan obsession

From Michael Binyon, Washington

As the Reagan Administration increases its pressure on Congress to vote for huge amounts of military aid to the Nicaragua Contras, a growing number of congressmen - Republicans and Democrats alike - are asking whether President Reagan is not in danger of becoming obsessive about an issue that does not have broad support in the country.
On Thursday he told the Republican whips' organization that those who voted against his proposal for \$100 million (£65 million) in aid were inadvertently supporting the communists. From his experience of communist subversion he knew that a great many people were deceived, and not aware that what they were doing was "inimical" to US interests.

Senator Nancy Kassenbaum, a Republican member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, complained that his attacks on the patriotism of opponents was "highly offensive".
In the House of Representatives, Mr Dave McCurdy, a Democrat whose vote was crucial in securing aid for the rebels last year, said: "The tactics of the Administration are backfiring. The level of rhetoric, the shrillness of attack, has lost them votes."

US marines burnt at Nato camp

From Tony Samstag Oslo

The ill-fated Nato exercises in northern Norway were dealt another setback yesterday when three American marines suffered serious burns after their tent caught fire.

Captain Steve Little of Task Force Eagle said the 10-man tent had apparently been set alight by a heater at about 5am. Two of the men were in hospital in Tromsø and the third, whose condition was said to be critical, was flown to a special burns unit in Bergen.
The marines were camped south-west of Tromsø, near the coast and well away from the area in which 14 Norwegian soldiers died in an avalanche on Wednesday.

Advertisement for A Times Exclusive featuring a case of superb 1982 Vintage Vacqueyras A.C. Côtes du Rhône 1982 Only £36.00. Includes an image of the wine bottle.

Advertisement for P&O Carpets Ltd. featuring an auction of bankrupt stock on Sunday 9th March at 7.00 p.m. Includes contact information for P&O Carpets Ltd.

Large advertisement for Baltic Asset Management Limited. Includes text: 'BEAT THE BUDGET! INCOME TAX RELIEF 1985/6 & 1986/7. WILL THE BUDGET CUT ASSET BACKING? Apply now for one or both of Baltic's asset-backed issues.' Includes details about Charlotte Street Restaurants PLC and City Shops PLC.

Spain four days to referendum

González begs right to support him on Nato

From Richard Wigg, Barcelona

Spain's Prime Minister, has made a dramatic appeal to political forces to the right of his Socialist Party, who really believe in the Atlantic alliance, to come to his rescue and win a majority for staying in Nato at the referendum in only four days time.

Battling against public opinion polls, showing that if a referendum had been held last week his Government would have lost, the Prime Minister adopted an almost begging tone towards Catalonia's centre and centre-right political leader and the local business community. The non-Socialist opposition has sought to boycott the referendum.

"I plead with those who have political responsibility and who believe in the alliance to speak out clearly in the few remaining days, because those who are against Nato are doing exactly that," Señor González said on Thursday night at a dinner given for him by Catalan journalists and politicians.

Admitting that however the referendum goes his own prestige will be damaged, Señor González went on: "I am making a bigger effort in this referendum campaign than in general elections because they will not decide whether there

should be a break in Spain's relations with the world and Europe, but this referendum will."

If the "no" votes triumphed on Wednesday, he warned, "an irreversible process of separation from the Atlantic alliance" would begin. The Soviet Union was very interested in Nato's European "pillar", he said.

Señor González welcomed the appeal by Spain's seven biggest private bankers for a "yes" vote and said he would be "grateful" if Señor Jordi Pujol, Catalonia's Chief Minister, copied the example of his Basque colleague, and now urged his supporters among the six million Catalans to do likewise.

But the Chief Minister has so far stayed silent, copying the tactics of Señor Manuel Fraga, the right-wing opposition leader. Their aim is to use the referendum to inflict maximum damage on the Prime Minister in a general election year.

When the Prime Minister arrived in Spain's most important industrial city to speak at the Ritz Hotel, there were heavy police patrols in the streets and a security guard numbering almost a dozen men. He was booed by most of a crowd of about 500 demonstrators outside the hotel and his car was stoned afterwards.

The demonstrators split four ways - pacifist groups who chanted "Nato no, United States bases out", workers from a factory which has gone bankrupt, Catalan separatists, and a small group of loyal Socialists who cheered him.

The separatists disrupted the dinner when a "guest" at one table got up and, speaking in Catalan, told the Prime Minister he was "persona non grata" as the representative of Spain's armed forces "occupying" their homeland.

Security men detained the young separatists who had got in using a local newspaper's credentials.

Señor González said that whatever the result on Wednesday he would not be calling a general election before next October, when his government's four-year term is up.

He reminded Catalan businessmen that belonging to Nato meant for trade and technology flows. If the "no" vote triumphed there would be no parliamentary majority to implement it, he said, underlining the political instability which abstaining on Wednesday could also mean for Spain.

Exiles aim to oust Haiti's leaders

Washington (Reuter) - A Haitian opposition leader yesterday urged the United States and France to help establish a new interim government in Haiti to replace the ruling council which succeeded the ousted former president, Mr Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier.

Mr Raphael Bazin, leader of the Front Unifié de Libération Nationale d'Haiti, said: "The present Government is composed of six men hand-picked by Duvalier. The reputation of these men is forever tainted by their loyalty to that regime."

Mr Bazin said he met State Department officials and the French Ambassador to Washington yesterday and had given them a 10-point plan for a new government. He hoped the United States and France might "play a role of arbitrator" in Haiti.

He said the liberation front's plans included reforming the army and establishing political parties, a free press, a new constitution and free elections.

He criticized the ruling council in Haiti for allowing Duvalier associates to leave and said he was still afraid to return to the country.

GRASSE: Mr Duvalier appeared yesterday to have won a round in his fight to stay in France, taking up residence in this Riviera town after being released from confinement in the Hôtel de l'Abbaye at



Mr Duvalier and his wife, Michelle, leaving the Hôtel de l'Abbaye yesterday for a villa on the Riviera.

Talloires (Reuter reports). He arrived at a private villa with his wife and family after a high-speed overnight drive from the hotel.

The French Government, which has so far failed to find a country willing to accept Mr Duvalier has made him the subject of an assigned residence, a move which will allow him freedom of movement in the Alpes-Maritimes Département.

Portugal's soldier president bows out after 10 years

By Richard Wigg

When President Antonio Eanes formally hands over as Portugal's head of state to Dr Mario Soares tomorrow the 10 years of stability the soldier-president gave his country will be uppermost in the minds of his ten million fellow citizens.

With impartiality and respect for fair play he filled out the framework of a democratic presidency after almost 50 years of a right-wing dictatorship, followed immediately by a lurching left-wing revolution.

It will remain one of the ironies of modern Portuguese history that a former artillery major, hardened in colonial wars, developed the skills and self-discipline to achieve all this, probably far more effectively than any of the politicians could have done. He leaves his successor with the challenge of high standards.

Señor Eanes, as he now becomes, though in fact he retains the rank of a four-star general was until the last few months easily the most respected and popular man in Portugal.

The dent in that reputation came as his supporters launched the Democratic Renewal Party he is now expected to lead, inevitably entering the arena of political infighting. He also judiciously endorsed as candidate for the presidential elections earlier this year a man who went down swiftly before the towering personality of Dr Soares.

President Eanes, still only 51, emerged from the ranks of the more moderate officers of the April 1974 Revolution to put down the attempt by the extreme left wing to seize power in November 1975. He was elected in the first democratic presidential election with 61 per cent of the votes in June 1976 and again with 56 per cent in December 1980.

His two basic achievements have been to guide Portugal's armed forces back from the political scene to the barracks; and to have held the balance so that governments of the left and right succeeded each other after the people had expressed their wishes in elections.

"When people elect their politicians they do so wanting to see them solve their country's problems," President Eanes told *The Times* shortly before the presidential elections.

That awareness explains his popularity among the Portuguese people as well as his criticisms of the performance of the politicians.

He goes now evidently believing that there must be a fundamental change in the style of Portuguese politics and a reform of the country's institutions, including the presidency.

This feeling he shares at the personal level with Señor Aníbal Cavaco Silva, the Prime Minister, who for the past three months has led a right-of-centre Social Democrat minority government.

One of the first practical decisions Señor Eanes faces is what attitude towards the Government should be adopted by the 45 MPs elected at last October's general election on the Eanes party ticket.

That was essentially a protest vote against the coalition led by Dr Soares, a mood across the country largely forgotten after the veteran Socialist leader's remarkable comeback in the presidential race.

President Eanes's evidently sincere belief in democracy always struck a sympathetic chord with millions of ordinary Portuguese, as did an austere-living Army officer's criticism of the cynicism and corruption of upper class Portuguese of the big cities.

President Eanes, who shunned ostentation and a personality cult, found in office a natural sympathy for young, efficient business and professional people, equipped, he believes, to lead Portuguese society as it adapts to the positive challenges of EEC membership.



Señor Eanes: leaving a challenge to his successor

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EXAMPLES

Man age 34
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Man age 54
"I invest an initial amount of £50 monthly, and you can expect to receive a lump sum of £23698 in 15 years time, absolutely free from tax - extremely useful cash for a complete retirement."

Woman age 34
"By saving an initial monthly amount of just £20, you can have a tax-free lump sum after 15 years, in excess of £1800 - a substantial amount to help cope with your family's financial needs."

Man age 34
"With a young family to provide for, regular savings might not be a priority at present, but if you choose to save an initial £10 monthly, you can have a tax-free sum of £5355 after only 15 years."

YOUR TAX-FREE WEALTH.

Projected benefits at the end of 15 years

Your age next birthday	Your Initial Monthly Savings Amount										
	£10			£20			£50				
Male	Female	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	
Up to 40	44	1950	3900	1224	2448	3900	7819	2449	9750	19548	6123
45	49	1925	3850	1208	2380	3850	7719	2418	9625	19290	6045
50	54	1875	3750	1177	2350	3750	7518	2355	9375	18796	5988
55	59	1800	3600	1130	2260	3600	7218	2261	9000	18045	5853
60	64	1725	3450	1083	2166	3450	6917	2166	8625	17293	5717
65	69	1650	3300	1036	2072	3300	6616	2072	8250	16541	5581

A Guaranteed Sum B Guaranteed Sum with Regular Bonuses C Additional Terminal Bonus

Notes: *Monthly premiums shown will increase by 5% of the initial regular monthly savings amount at the end of each year throughout the term of the policy. **The table of benefits assumes that you are employed at our ordinary rates of premium. †If you already have a Sun Life Money Plus Plan or a similar investment plan with Sun Life you can still apply under the terms of this offer subject to your total monthly payments not exceeding £100.

Benefits for ages not shown can be obtained approximately by reference to corresponding adjacent values in the table above. The guaranteed sum applying will be certified to you when we accept your Application.

These projected values assume that our current rates of bonuses are maintained. Some bonuses come from profits. Future rates of bonuses cannot be guaranteed. Full details of bonuses and the method by which they are allocated will accompany your personal benefits summary.

The Money Plus Plan is a savings contract for a fixed term. It may be surrendered for cash during the term, provided that at least 2 years' premiums have been paid. However, the surrender value then payable, especially in the early years, may be less than the total premiums paid. If the amount payable is very small, you may also be liable for a small charge for your share in our overhead expenses.

Apply now without obligation. Decide the initial amount you wish to save each month and then complete the simple Application Form. Post today with your cheque for £1 for your first month's investment.

On acceptance, you will receive your policy document and a Direct Debit Mandate for your future monthly payments.

If you wish to cancel, you have 15 days from receipt of your policy document in which to do so - entirely without obligation - and your £1 will be refunded.

Only £1.

YOUR FIRST MONTH'S INVESTMENT COSTS ONLY £1 NO MATTER WHICH PLAN LEVEL YOU CHOOSE - AN OFFER WORTH UP TO £49 UP, DEPENDING ON THE SAVINGS LEVEL YOU CHOOSE. OFFER CLOSES ON

MAR 31st 1986

Apply now without obligation. Only £1 for your first month. Money Plus Plan.

TO SUN LIFE ASSURANCE, FREEPOST Dept (PROMO) PO Box 290, Bristol BS99 7XY NO STAMP REQUIRED.

I apply for a Money Plus Policy which you will send me on 15 days approval and I enclose my cheque for £1

PAY ONLY £1 NOW IF YOU SEND YOUR APPLICATION BY THE DATE SHOWN ABOVE 24/3/86

Please ensure you tick the initial savings level of your choice.

Tick one only £10 £20 £30 £40 £50

Surname Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS

Forenames _____ IN FULL

Address _____

Postcode _____ Date of Birth _____

Please answer all questions carefully and accurately

Occupation _____

Name of Insurance Broker (if any) _____ Tick as appropriate

1. Have you within the last five years

(a) been incapacitated for more than two weeks at a time as a result of illness or accident? Yes No

(b) consulted a specialist or attended hospital as an in-patient or out-patient? Yes No

2. Are you currently receiving medication prescribed by a doctor? Yes No

3. Has any proposal for life insurance or for loss or accident insurance on your life been declined, deferred or accepted on special terms? Yes No

If you answer "Yes" to any of the questions above, please give details on a separate piece of paper. We may be able to accept you. Please make sure that certain information should be given, please give it, as failure to disclose facts likely to influence Sun Life's decision could affect the payment of benefits.

I declare that the foregoing statements are to the best of my knowledge and belief true and complete. I understand that the Plan will commence as soon as my first premium is acknowledged by the issue of an official acceptance from SUN LIFE Assurance.

Signature _____

Date _____

Tick here if you send an Application Form for your spouse

Tick here if you do not have a Bank Account

20 VAL

SUN LIFE ASSURANCE PO BOX 290 BRISTOL BS99 7XY

Harare's hunt for beds

Harare - The Government of Zimbabwe has asked private citizens to billet leaders attending the non-aligned movement summit in September (Jan Raath writes).

An unprecedented crush on accommodation in the city is expected when as many as 7,000 delegates, officials, observers and journalists arrive. The government has already booked nearly all the available hotel space. Mr Simon Muzenda, the Deputy Prime Minister, told a meeting of bankers and industry leaders that he hoped they would make their luxury homes and cars available for the guests.

The Government has begun building 32 luxury villas, at a cost of about £1.5 million, for the state leaders but another 70 would be needed.

Singapore tax cut to woo investors

Singapore (Reuter) - Singapore yesterday announced tax cuts to try to stimulate business, avert a crash in the property market and lure more foreign investors.

The Finance Minister, Mr Richard Hu, told Parliament in his budget speech that tax cuts would erode government revenues but were vital in his long-term strategy to rekindle business activity.

Singapore's economy shrunk by 1.8 per cent last year after an 8.2 per cent expansion in 1984. In the 1986-87 fiscal year from April the Government expects a budget deficit of about Singapore \$3.22 billion (£1 billion), with total spending rising by 36.9 per cent to \$22.06 billion.

Mr Hu said general revenue would fall 3.3 per cent to \$14.55 billion, but the Government would enjoy \$4.28 billion of revenue from loan repayments and interest and investment income.

Liner disaster pilot will not be prosecuted

Wellington (Reuter) - The New Zealand pilot who was navigating the Soviet cruise liner Mikhail Lermontov when it hit rocks before sinking will not be prosecuted, the Transport Ministry said yesterday.

Meanwhile, the head of the inquiry into the sinking, Captain Steve Ponsford, said in a radio interview that the pilot, Captain Don Jamison, had decided on the spur of the moment to take the 20,352 ton liner through a narrow passage on the north coast of New Zealand's South Island.

The ship sank on February 16 after hitting rocks at Cape Jackson. All 409 passengers and all but one of more than 300 crew members were rescued. Captain Ponsford's report, released on Thursday, said Captain Jamison had navigated by sight.

"Captain Jamison knows that area like the back of his hand," he said.

New Woolwich Endowment Rate

12.75% equivalent to 8.925%

specified rate for mortgages Net rate payable on eligible loans with mortgage interest tax relief at 9%

With effect from 7 March 1986, the Woolwich Building Society is to reduce its endowment mortgage rate to 12.75% for new borrowers purchasing or improving owner-occupied residential property.

Rates for existing borrowers with endowment mortgages will be reduced to 12.75% on 1 June 1986. Where an endowment mortgage offer was made before 7 March 1986 but has not been completed, the interest rate quoted will be reduced by 0.2% with effect from 1 June 1986. In the case of further advance offers, the reduced rate of 12.75% will apply from the date on which the interest rate on the related mortgage changes.

We will be writing to existing borrowers in May with details of revised monthly payments. Further details may be obtained from your local branch.

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Bronzed and beaming Chirac stays quiet on 'cohabitation' issue

From Diana Geddes Paris

"I have absolutely no wish to be Prime Minister," M Jacques Chirac insists in private to incredulous journalists as he wings his way round France on the last leg of his gruelling election campaign, averaging two departements and five or six public meetings a day.

For the past few weeks, everyone has been talking of the dynamic leader of the Gaullist RPR party as though he were already Prime Minister, and he is beginning to feel as though he has been pushed into too tight a corner. He needs room for manoeuvre. He wants to leave his options open. There are other perfectly good candidates for the job, he insists.

The campaign has been dominated in the national media by the question of what is going to happen after the elections. Who is going to "cohabit" with whom, and so



M Chirac talking with 'real' people about 'real' issues.

and flexible enough to enable France to continue to be governed," he adds in answer to those who have been predicting political chaos and constitutional crisis.

He has come to Limoges, capital of the Socialist stronghold of the Haute Vienne, in the heart of the Limousin after an exceptional "break" of five days campaigning in his own departement of the Correze next door. He looks bronzed, relaxed and healthy, despite his crippling, non-stop schedule, and is evidently happy to be talking "real" issues with "real" people.

A national television journalist who attempts a question on cohabitation gets very

short shrift. "Over the past five days, I have addressed some 35 meetings and have been asked hundreds of questions. But not a single one was about what would or would not happen after March 16," he snaps, before plunging again into the complexities of milk quotas, regional fundings, EEC agricultural policy, business taxes, youth unemployment, and the all-important local issue of whether the Haute Vienne will ever get its motorway.

M Chirac is good on the stump. He appears to thrive on the direct human contact,



M Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of France's National Front, appearing at a rally near Paris to commemorate an extreme right militant beaten to death in Beaucaire, in the south, this week.

Experts doubt Waldheim was there

From Richard Bassett Vienna

Doubts grew here yesterday over the World Jewish Congress's evidence for claiming that Dr Kurt Waldheim was linked to Nazi atrocities during the war.

Two prominent Austrian military historians questioned the authenticity of the military file which the Austrian weekly

magazine Profil published earlier this week showing Dr Waldheim as a member of the Sturmabteilung (SA).

Dr August Baumüller, director of the War Archives in Vienna, said the document published had neither a serial number nor an issuing stamp.

Dr Gerhard Jagschitz, of the Austrian Institute of Contemporary History, also said

the evidence presented so far was inconclusive.

Meanwhile, the Austrian conservative People's Party yesterday pledged to take legal steps against those they believe are behind an "anti-Waldheim conspiracy."

A spokesman for the party said: "We will find out who the people are behind this dirty campaign and take the appropriate action."

At an election rally organized last night by the People's Party in Styria, Dr Waldheim was given a standing ovation.

Dr Waldheim is running for the presidency in the May 5 elections and political observers believe if he survives the next few days' publicity, he cannot fail to win at the polls.

500 rebel suspects in Uganda roundup

Kampala (Reuter) - About 500 people have been detained in eastern Uganda in the past week, suspected of planning to overthrow President Museveni's Government.

Police in the town of Jinja, where most of the men are being held, said large stocks of arms were recovered in forests in Iganga district, 75 miles east of Kampala.

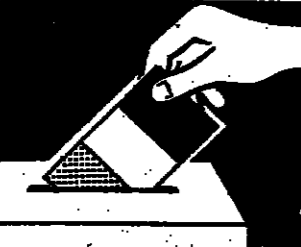
Informed government sources said the men had planned to overthrow Mr Museveni and bring back the former President, Dr Milton Obote, from exile in Zambia.

President Obote was toppled by the army last July, and his successor, General Tito Okello, was ousted when Mr Museveni's National Resistance Army guerrillas took

Kampala six months later. NRA forces are still fighting for control of northern Uganda, where thousands of Obote troops have regrouped.

After weeks of steady progress, the NRA troops are reported to be just south of the towns of Gulu and Kitgum, where the rebels have said they will make a stand.

GENEVA: The new Uganda Government is seeking a UN investigation to see if earlier rulers, including Idi Amin, are guilty of genocide as a step toward bringing them to justice, the Foreign Minister, Mr Ibrahim Mukiibi said



on. But M Chirac knows from his recent weeks of close contacts with people on the ground in "La France profonde", far from the overheated political atmosphere in the capital, that the constitutional niceties of "cohabitation" do not interest the average Frenchman.

He therefore tries to avoid talking about such hypothetical issues. "Let us take one step at a time," he says. "Let's first win the elections on March 16, and then we shall see. Whatever happens, the institutions of the Republic are both quite strong enough

Chun told to speed reforms

From David Watts Tokyo

Encouraged by events in the Philippines, the South Korean opposition has demanded that the Government revise the constitution this year and hold direct presidential elections in 1987.

The new demands were announced yesterday at a press conference, held jointly by the New Korea Democratic Party (NKDP) and the Council for the Promotion of Democracy, setting out a timetable for democracy. They said they would boycott elections in 1988 if these were not held under a new constitution.

President Chun has repeatedly said he will step down in 1988 but recently he added that there could be constitutional amendments in 1989 after a national debate. The opposition claims he has no business promising the possibility of amendments to be made after he has left office.

Calling for an end to the "dictatorship", Mr Lee Min Woo, the president of the NKDP, read out the opposition's demands from a statement signed by leading dissidents Mr Kim Yung Sam and Mr Kim Dae Jung, the latter of whom was prevented from attending yesterday's conference by the government because it would amount to political activity.

In the statement, the two Kims called for a caretaker Cabinet to ensure a peaceful transfer of power after elections - clearly mindful of the advent of the new government in Manila.

The response from the Seoul Government was that the opposition's press conference announcement was a "bid for power by any means". Leading article, page 11

Two chief ministers resign

From Kuldip Nayar Delhi

Two state chief ministers resigned yesterday. Mr G.M. Shah, the Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, quit when the Congress (I) Party withdrew its support, and Mr Shivrajrao Patil Nilangerkar, the Maharashtra chief minister, resigned after the state High Court ruled there was "reasonable ground for inference" that he and his daughter, Dr Chandrakala Dawale, "manipulated" her medical exam results from Bombay University in 1985.

It is reported that Mr Shah lost the support of his party after Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister and party president, was disturbed by his administration's inept handling of the recent Muslim-Hindu disturbances in Jammu, Anantnag and Srinagar, which led to large-scale migration of Hindu Kashmiri pandits to other parts of India.

Mr Nilangerkar is expected to remain in control until Mr Gandhi, who has gone to Arunachal, a state in north-east India, decides his successor when he returns to Delhi in a few days.

Opposition protest: The opposition stormed out of the Punjab state assembly yesterday shouting that the government had failed to halt attacks by extremists.

The protest followed the bloodiest attack yet by extremists seeking a separate Sikh state since the Government took power nearly six months ago.

Police said seven people were killed and 14 wounded in Kaparthala on Thursday night when gunmen tried to assassinate Mr Kabeel Singh, who last week took over as acting president of the Sikh Temples' Management Committee, the religion's most powerful body.

Kings College
October 23rd 1994

Dear Granddad,
Now that I've had
a chance to settle in, I
was everything

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DEPOSIT BONDS
THE PRESENT WITH A FUTURE



Gusty last day for the Queen in Victoria

From Tony Dubosina, Melbourne

The Queen had a bumpy start to her last day in Victoria when a gusty north-westerly wind sprang up soon after she set out in the royal barge for the royal yacht Britannia, moored in Westernport Bay, for the short journey to Stony Point.

Waves broke over the barge's bow and the Queen remained below for the journey.

The Queen, none the worse for the rough passage, then travelled to Ballam Park technical school, about 30 miles south-east of Melbourne, where she saw a display of folk dancing on the playing field by 2,000 primary school children from the area.

The royal party was shown over the school's workshops and the students went about

their normal routine. The Queen received a large cheer from the students when she announced: "I am glad to say the Minister (of Education) has agreed that for all of you here the rest of the day should be a holiday."

Later she presented new Queen's Colours to the Royal Australian Navy in a ceremony at the shore base HMAS Cerberus during which there was a march-past by 600 sailors.

It was the first time that a reigning sovereign had presented a royal colour to the RAN, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary. She paid tribute to its service in two world wars.

The Queen left Victoria on the royal yacht at dusk for South Australia to continue her tour.

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Papandreou cuts presidential powers Step to autocratic rule feared by Opposition

From Mario Modiano, Athens

The Greek Parliament gave its final approval yesterday to a revision of the Constitution which was hailed by the ruling Socialists as "a victory for popular sovereignty" and denounced by the conservative opposition as "a step towards autocratic rule".

The revised text was approved by 160 Socialist and allied votes against 12 of the Communists and 10 abstentions. The 111 deputies of New Democracy, the conservative opposition party, walked out before the vote protesting against procedural irregularities.

The two-phase revision, which took a year to complete, curtails the constitutional prerogatives of the President, which now rest largely with the Council of Ministers and Parliament.

New Democracy has argued that the injudicious concentration of power in the hands of the Prime Minister upsets the existing system of checks and balances designed to shield the minority from abuses of power.

The Government insists that the revision will free the elected political forces from outside intervention that could distort the balance of power or involve the head of state in partisan rivalries.

Under the revised charter,

which goes into effect in the next 10 days, the President will lose the right to dismiss the Prime Minister, while he may dissolve Parliament only in the case of demonstrable government instability.

The president's choice of prime minister is limited to leaders of the three or four largest parliamentary parties. If they fail to form a government, the president must appoint one of the three top judges to head an election cabinet.

The president may no longer take vital issues direct to the people by referendum, nor may he air any differences with the government by speaking direct to the people; he now needs the prime minister's consent for this.

The Opposition protested that the abolished presidential prerogatives enabled the head of state to offer the people another say on major issues, rather than let an ill-intentioned government invoke the electorate's blanket mandate.

A case in point is the constitutional provision on the state of siege. Previously the president could proclaim martial law in the case of war or external or internal threat provided he had the prime minister's signature.

Now the decision to invoke martial law belongs to the

government which must obtain the consent of a three-fifths majority in parliament. But if parliament cannot be convened, the government can decree the state of siege.

The emasculating of presidential powers is not as drastic as the original Socialist proposal a year ago led one to expect.

The president, for instance, retains the right to object to legislation and ask parliament to reconsider it or pass it with an enhanced majority.

There is speculation that Mr Andreas Papandreou, the Prime Minister, aspires to the presidency now that his party, after winning a comfortable majority in two elections, is losing ground because of a prolonged economic slump.

Mr Papandreou denies this, although it is becoming abundantly clear that he is having second thoughts about his choice of President Sartzetakis to replace Mr Karamanlis a year ago.

Political analysts maintain that the revision still reserves a substantial moderating role for the president, especially if the post is held by a personality as charismatic as Mr Papandreou, and if simple, proportional representation is introduced to dilute the power of parties through fragmentation.

Mr Nixon, who restored US ties with China during his presidency, urged the West to support China's economic development. The most significant geopolitical event in the past 40 years had been the Sino-Soviet split in 1961 followed by the American-Chinese rapprochement in 1972, he said. China was allied to neither superpower and would turn towards Moscow only if not welcomed by the West.

"The Soviet model does not work. Ours does. That is why even more important than our military co-operation with the People's Republic of China is our economic co-operation."



Former US president Richard Nixon (above) called for a new realism in US-Soviet relations while speaking in Los Angeles.

Chinese anger over Seoul action on pilot

Peking (Reuter) - China criticized South Korea yesterday for allowing a Chinese pilot who defected in his MIG19 fighter last month to go to a third country.

A Foreign Ministry statement said China was "extremely regretful and strongly dissatisfied".

Mr Chien Pao-chung, aged 26, defected on February 21. Observers believe he will be sent to Taiwan.

South Korea said it would respect Mr Chien's "free wishes" to seek asylum elsewhere and would allow him to leave as soon as legal procedures were completed.

Publican selling own beer not guilty of theft

Attorney General's Reference (No 1 of 1985)

Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Mann and Sir Roger Ormrod (Opinion given March 7)

An employee who contracted with his employer to sell on his employer's premises only goods supplied by his employer and to remain and deal with the proceeds of such sales for the benefit of his employer, did not receive moneys on account of his employer within the meaning of section 5(3) of the Theft Act 1968 when he was paid to him by customers on the employer's premises for goods sold on those premises which he had secretly obtained from someone other than his employer.

On a charge of theft where an employee had used his employer's premises and facilities to make a secret profit, that profit could not properly be described as a trust in favour of the employer, but even if it could, it was not such a trust as fell within the ambit of section 5(1) of the Theft Act, and did not give the employer a proprietary right or interest in the secret profit within the ambit of the subsection.

The Court of Appeal so held in giving a reserved opinion on a reference by the Attorney General under section 36 of the Criminal Justice Act 1972.

Mr Anthony Aridge, QC and Mr Bruce Houlder for the Attorney General, and Mr Michael Langdale and Mr Timothy Langdale as amici curiae, the respondents did not exercise their right to appear.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, delivering the opinion of the court, said that the respondent A was the salaried manager of a tied public house, and the respondent B was a barman employed by him.

One of the terms of A's employment was that he would only sell goods supplied by his employer, unless otherwise directed.

A and B were discovered by the police transporting barrels of beer to the public house at night. A admitted that he had bought beer from a wholesaler and intended to make a secret profit

by selling it to customers in the public house. At their trial, the appellants were acquitted of going equipped to cheat.

It was argued on behalf of the Attorney General that the effect of section 5(3) of the 1968 Act was to make the profit element of the money which A received from selling the beer notionally being to the employer. When A appropriated the profit he was, thus, guilty of theft, assuming that he was acting dishonestly.

That argument depended on whether A could properly be said to have received property "on account of the employer". The court did not think he could.

No doubt he was in breach of contract with his employer and under an obligation to account for the profit made, but that did not mean necessarily that he had received the money on account of the employer. When A received the money on account of section 17 of the Larceny Act 1916, which section 5(3) sought to replace and simplify, the decision in *R v Cullum* (1873) LR 2 CCR 285 was also in point.

The argument based on section 5(3) of the Theft Act was misconceived.

The Crown also relied on section 5(1) arguing that A was a constructive trustee of the profit made by him in respect of the "bought in" beer, the beneficiary being the employer. The result of that would be that when A appropriated the money he was guilty of theft (assuming dishonesty).

The court had been referred to a number of authorities, from which two matters emerged. The first was that if the Crown was right, then a host of activities which would be thought of as stealing would be brought within the Theft Act.

The second matter was that there was a clear and important difference between a person who misappropriated property which he had been entrusted, and a person in a fiduciary position using that position to make a secret profit for which he would be held accountable. Whether the former was within section 5, the court was not asked to decide.

As to the latter, the court was firmly of the view that he was

not, because he was not a trustee.

In *Lister & Co v Stubbs* (1890) 45 Ch 111 it was held that the relation between employee and employer in similar circumstances was that of debtor and creditor, not trustee, and *estus qui trahit*.

The draftsmen of the 1968 Act must have had that decision in mind when considering the wording of section 5. Had they intended to bring within the ambit of the Theft Act a whole new area of behaviour which had previously not been considered to be criminal, they would have used much more explicit wording.

Looking at the matter from a different angle, could it be said that the employer had a "proprietary right or interest" in the profit made by A?

If A defined in his obligation to pay his suppliers, they could not sue the employer, because the contract of sale was with A, and was not only outside the scope of his authority from the employer but was also in flagrant defiance of that authority and the terms of his employment.

The employer could thus scarcely be said to have a proprietary interest in the beer or in the proceeds of the beer.

Even assuming that section 5(1) did import the constructive trust into the Theft Act, on the facts of the case the employer still retained a proprietary interest, since the profit element never became a separate piece of property of which A could be a constructive trustee.

No less difficulty would arise in the proof of dishonesty and guilty mind. A might very well say, and truthfully, that he knew he was in breach of contract, but it had never occurred to him that he might be stealing the profit from his employer.

That seemed to be a good illustration of the objectionability of the whole proposition. If something was so absurd and so far from the understanding of ordinary people as to what constituted stealing, then it should, not amount to stealing.

Solicitors: DPP, Treasury Solicitor.

Polish mother seeks Reagan's aid

Perth Amboy, New Jersey (AP) - The mother of a Solidarity leader in Poland has appealed to President Reagan to help get her son out of a Polish prison.

Mrs Rozalia Borusewicz Sinka wrote to Mr Reagan and several New Jersey congressmen after her son, Mr Bogdan Borusewicz, was arrested on

January 11 by the Polish authorities.

"His crime?" Mrs Sinka wrote. "To love one's country, to love one's fellow land."

According to reports in several Polish newspapers, Mr Borusewicz hand-picked Mr Lech Walesa to lead the shipyard strikes which led to the emergence of Solidarity.

He had been hiding since December 1981 when martial law was imposed in Poland. After a long search by Polish authorities he was arrested in the basement of his printing shop, which still printed Solidarity literature.

Mrs Sinka has lived in Perth Amboy since leaving Poland 10 years ago.

Cashier on Channel ferry not employed in UK

Haughton v Olau Lines (UK) Ltd

Before Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Neill and Lord Justice Ralph Gibson (Judgment given March 7)

A cashier employed on a German-registered ferry, based at Sheerness and plying between Sheerness and Finschlag, which worked for the majority of the time outside United Kingdom territorial waters, was not employed "at an establishment within Great Britain" within the meaning of section 10(1) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 so that an industrial tribunal had no jurisdiction to entertain her complaint of discrimination under section 6(1) and (2) of the Act.

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing an appeal by the employee, Kim Wanda Haughton, from a decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal on May 3, 1985 affirming the decision of an industrial tribunal that its jurisdiction to hear her complaint of discrimination by her employer, Olau Lines (UK) Ltd, was excluded.

Section 10 of the 1975 Act provides: "(1) For the purposes of this Part... employment is to be regarded as being at an establishment in Great Britain unless the employee does his work wholly or mainly outside Great Britain."

Mr R. G. B. Allen for the employee, Mr John Bowers for the employer.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the jurisdiction of industrial tribunals was entirely statutory. The employee's complaint was brought under section 6(1) and (2) of the 1975 Act.

The key words were: "It is unlawful for a person, in relation to employment by him at an establishment in Great Britain, to discriminate against a woman..." (subsection (1)) and "It is unlawful for a person, in the case of a woman employed by him at an establishment in Great Britain, to discriminate against her..." (subsection (2)).

If the director had stopped there, it would have been

reasonably clear that the employee was not so employed. She was employed on a German ship which was not an establishment, or was not an establishment in Great Britain.

However, regard had to be paid to section 10 of the Act.

For the employee it had been submitted that section 10 was for identifying purposes only. Subsection (1) created a general presumption that, save where the employee did her work wholly or mainly outside Great Britain, she was employed at an establishment in Great Britain.

The particular presumption, created by subsection (2), was that the same was true where the employee did her work on a British-registered ship (or aircraft or hovercraft) operated by a person who had his principal place of business in Great Britain.

The section also identified the establishment where that might be in doubt. Subsection (3) dealt with employment on British-registered ships. Subsection (4) dealt with people who worked not at an establishment but from it, prescribing the establishment from which they worked as being the relevant establishment.

Applying that construction, it was submitted that subsection (1) could be ignored, because the employee worked mainly outside Great Britain. So could subsections (2) and (3) because she worked on a German ship.

That left subsection (4) as the key provision. A ship could not be regarded as an establishment and, accordingly, it was necessary to find some establishment from which the employee worked. That was the employer's office at Sheerness.

Mr Allen had relied on EEC Directive 76/207 as giving the employee substantive rights, but had been forced to abandon that contention as a result of the decision of the European Court of Justice in *Marshall v Southampton and South West Hampshire Area Health Authority* (1972) (The Times February 27, 1986). He submitted that the directive could still be used to resolve ambiguities.

It was not necessary to pursue that aspect because the statute was not ambiguous. Once it was appreciated that the phrase "employed at an establishment in Great Britain" required clarification in the context of ships and of work undertaken partly outside Great Britain and, further, required a formula for identifying the relevant establishment, the true purpose and meaning of section 10 became apparent. It was a definition clause which could be written back into section 6.

So read it excluded claims by those whose work was done wholly or mainly outside Great Britain, unless it was done on a British-registered ship, in which case only employees whose work was done wholly outside Great Britain was excluded.

The belief that that was the true construction of the relevant piece of legislation, confirmed by a consideration of the anomalies which would arise if subsection (4) was in no way governed by subsection (1).

In the light of the approach to the meaning of "establishment" adopted by the House of Lords in *Lord v British Oxygen Ltd* (1972) 1 WLR 488 there was little doubt that the ship was an establishment, but if that was wrong the anomalies increased.

The employee's claim failed for lack of jurisdiction and her appeal should be dismissed.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL, concurring, said that a careful analysis of section 10 showed that subsection (1) was to be construed as a comprehensive definition of "employment at an establishment in Great Britain" to be applied in all cases except where the subsection was specifically excluded by reason of subsection (2).

In the circumstances it was not necessary to consider the further submission that a ship engaged as a cross-Channel ferry was not an establishment within the meaning of the Act.

Lord Justice Ralph Gibson agreed.

Solicitors: J W Craddock & Co, Gillingham, Kent; David Hartley & Co, Maidstone.

Magistrates acted precipitately

Regina v Southend Justices, Ex parte Wood

Before Lord Justice Stephen Brown and Sir Roger Ormrod (Judgment given February 27)

Justices had acted precipitately for the purposes of section 25(2) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 where they purported to discontinue summary trial of the defendant in favour of committal proceedings, when the summary proceedings had not commenced.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in granting an application by John Anthony Wood for judicial review by way of *certiorari* to quash the decision of the Southend Justices on May 10, 1985 to discontinue summary proceedings in respect of alleged offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and to commit him to the crown court for trial.

Mr Paul Snales for the defendant; Mr Laurence Marshall for the prosecutor.

LORD JUSTICE STEPHEN BROWN said that the defendant had been charged on April 26, 1984 charged with offences of possession and supply of a Class A controlled drug. The justices adjourned the matter for summary trial. It was unclear whether the defendant had been put to his election.

At the adjourned hearing before a new bench of justices on May 10, the prosecutor had preferred two further summonses alleging attempt to supply. The prosecution outlined the facts *de novo*.

The justices decided to commit the defendant for trial to the crown court on all the charges. It appeared that all that had been done at that stage was that the justices had considered the summonses relating to the alleged attempt to supply. They had not yet begun summarily to try the substantive charges.

Accordingly, they had acted precipitately and in breach of section 25(2) of the 1980 Act. In relation to the attempt summons, however, the justices were entitled to take the course they did.

The application would succeed in so far as it related to the substantive offences and those charges would be remitted for a fresh hearing by way of summary trial. Once those proceedings had been commenced it would be open to the justices to discontinue them and to proceed by way of committal for trial.

Sir Roger Ormrod delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Mr Bruce Simpson, Billericay; Mr J. J. Goodwin, Chelmsford.

No judicial review of NCB decision

Regina v National Coal Board, Ex parte National Union of Mineworkers and Others

The decision taken by the NCB to close Bates Colliery in Northumberland was an executive business or management decision, similar to one taken by a public company, and as such it was not in any way part of its activities as a public body and therefore susceptible to judicial review.

Nor was the NCB's decision an act done under section 46 of the Coal Industry Nationalization Act 1946 since that section, when read as a whole, related to the board's duty to establish machinery for the settlement of terms and conditions of employment and other matters, and did not extend beyond that to the realms of consultation as a matter of statutory duty.

MR JUSTICE MACPHERSON so held in the Queen's Bench Division on March 7 when he dismissed an application for *inter alia*, an order *certiorari* to quash the final decision of the board on February 20, 1986, to close the colliery and an injunction restraining the board taking any steps towards the closure until a lawful final decision had been taken.

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Television Colbys go home!

By common consent those men of hidden acuity, the programme planners, have made it harder than a ship's biscuit to find anything worth watching on Friday evenings. Friday night really is the bottom of the week's barrel and you cannot scrape much lower than *Sporting Chance* (BBC2) in which well-known personalities take up sports of their choice. Last night's programme, the fourth of eight, consisted in witnessing the clumsy attempts of three singers and actors as they learnt how to ski, play snooker and fire an arrow. Under the smiling smile of Amekka Rice, who seems everywhere these days, the whole enterprise was scrupulously produced, purposelessly directed and laborious to watch. How it came to be made, heaven knows.

With such competition, *The Colbys* (BBC1) comes into its own, leaving one breathless with confusion, irritation, frustration, ironic laughter and sheer incredulity. With *Dallas*, *Dynasty* and its equivalent to *Dynasty II* running at the same time, soap has taken on the characteristics of bacteria. It is now possible to understand the circumstances in which the West German Government could issue a ministerial communique assuring that *Dallas* did not pose a fundamental threat to the German family. That said, *The Colbys* is knocking its predecessors into a deflated stein. Produced with the necessary involvement of Aaron Spelling, it sets out audaciously to include everything from incest to madness.

The scale is altogether grander. *Colby Enterprises*, snarls Jason Colby - formidably played by Charlton Heston - is not like the cozy little grocer's store of Denver Carrington. Profits are spent on modern art - you cannot move for horse sculptures, Rothkos and Klines - and everyone travels by helicopter in dinner jackets. When a character says "Rome sounds wonderful", it sounds as if he wants to buy the option. "You know how you love Italy", says Jason's wonderfully evil wife, Sabie, to her sister, Frances Scott Colby Carrington (there are more double barrels in this series than a partridge shoot). "Share it with the two men in your life".

The manservant remains the dilemma between whether to be part of the family or yourself, propelling Fallon into a split personality. Jason's sister Connie (Barbara Stanwyck) into an anonymous affair with a hillbilly she met at a charity radio, and Blake Carrington into stumbling on to the Colby set and telling everyone he meets "Your family needs you".

The high point, his reunion with Fallon, was a great comic piece as he fell into her arms smiling like a geriatric vampire whose false teeth have been knocked out.

Dallas' fatal strength was that it dealt only with one family. *The Colbys*' weakness - and it is a riveting one - is that it deals with anyone who strays on to the set. You only have to shoot JR. Who knows how they will get rid of the Colbys, but I would love to be driving the tank.

Nicholas Shakespeare

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Theatre Welcome farce at gale force

Lend Me a Tenor

On first acquaintance Ken Ludwig seems a farceur who gets trigger-happy with bedroom doors, and who can never relinquish a double-meaning until he has flogged it to death. He also has verve, a sound grasp of plot mechanics, and a rare ability to couple high art and low comedy. Considering the lamentable quality of the farces that have been sneaking into the West End lately, it is no wonder that Thursday's audience responded to *Lend Me a Tenor* (title supplied by Richard Stille) like a parched herd stumbling upon a water hole.

We spend the evening in the fanciest hotel suite in Cleveland, Ohio, on the tenth anniversary gala of the town's Grand Opera. Tickets for this event have rocketed to as much as \$50, and truck-loads of over-price shrimp mayonnaise await the festive crowd. All depends on the arrival of a famed Italian tenor who has been prevailed upon to give Cleveland his Otello; and the first scene consists of lip-licking testimonials to his animal attractions, coupled with anxiety over whether Il Supremo is going to show up.

The characters so far are Max, the company's general factotum, and the impresario's daughter, Maggie, who brushes off Max's hopes of marriage along with his aspirations as a singer. Max is played by Dennis Lawson; but no sooner have you decided that this is *Mr Cinders* all over again than an unseen orchestra strikes up and he takes a very creditable stab at "Celeste Aida". What ever the absurdities of opera stars and cultural committees, there are no Philistine gags about opera itself.

The great Tito arrives with monster wife in tow; strikes up a musical friendship with Max (confirmed in the surging *Don Carlo* duet), and retires to bed before the performance. Unsurprisingly, he fails to awaken on time, and Max gallantly blacks up and steps into the breach, bringing *Le tou* Cleveland to its knees, while the real star is hauled off by the police for trying to break into the theatre. Thence to a classic hue and cry, with two Otellos in adjoining rooms, pursued by Maggie



Mouse into tenor: Denis Lawson with Jan Francis in *Lend Me a Tenor*

and an equally ravenous Desdemona, not to mention the queenly chairperson of the opera committee and her wretchedly compromised impresario.

Mr Ludwig is no exponent of farcical thrift, he writes in passing gags that go nowhere (at one point we are told that the orchestra parts have been lost; a calamity never mentioned again); his women are heavily over-written vamps and climbers; motivation is never allowed to get in the way of fun, which is laid on with a sledgehammer.

Hence the particular joy of David Gilmore's production which caps the excessive over-

writing with its own explosive vitality. The timing is superb, particularly when it comes to the art of the slow burn. Witness John Barron's response to the news that Il Supremo has passed away: an immense gap of stupefied disbelief before the impresario erupts in enraged physical assault on the inconceivable corpse.

Anna Nicholas smoulders to similar effect as the star's wife. Latin jealousy incarnate as she takes to her bed with a magazine and responds to every placating word by ripping out another page as if it were a rival's eyes. Ronald Holgate as Tito performs an

Concerts Sounds familiar

Bournemouth Sinfonietta/ Calcraft Queen Elizabeth Hall

As Joaquin Rodrigo enters his 85th year, there are still works of his which Britain has yet to discover, and his current South Bank festival offers at least six which will be unfamiliar to most audiences.

Rodrigo is a composer whose first performances are greeted with a relieved and pleasurable sigh of *deja vu*. Discovery is hardly the right word: a sense of reassured welcome rather than excitement warmed the generous movement-by-movement applause in his presence on Thursday night.

The mood of the entire evening was one of *andante nostalgico*, the direction reserved for the main theme of his *Concierto madrigal*, given its London premiere by Angel and Pepe Romero. Its suite of evocative and vividly characterized variations on Arcadelt's "O felici occhi miei" was imaginatively set in the context of Respighi's own *Ancient Arts and Dances* and, as an overture to the entire evening, "La Primavera" from Respighi's *Trittico Bosciliano*.

But there were moments when that sense of *deja vu* worked rather less positively. The joy of Rodrigo's music is its ready smile, its ever-amenable backgrounds; the challenge of foreground, of revelation and development is not a distinguishing feature.

So the two UK premieres were not, perhaps, best served by being heard consecutively in a solid hour and a half of music-making, which also included an albeit more than usually compelling performance by Angel Romero of the *Concierto de Aranjuez*.

The bright pagentry of the courtly dances from *Pavana Real* fitted neatly into the programme. But the Bournemouth Sinfonietta, under Raymond Calcraft, seemed weary, and understandably so, by the end of the 1982 *Concierto para una fiesta*.

For all the considerable imagination and virtuosity of its solo writing and of Pepe Romero's performance its material was endlessly prolix, particularly in its relentless alternation rather than cross-fertilization of forces. Despite the promise of its haunting slow movement with its ostinato passed between guitar and woodwind, it soon blurred into an over-repetitive montage of Rodrigo fingerprints.

Hilary Finch

King/Consort of Musicke Wigmores Hall

The voice is perhaps the only instrument of the baroque epoch whose original sounds we cannot be reasonably sure of. I have entirely subjective reservations about Andrew King's rather monochromatic, sometimes seemingly half-swallowed tenor but this young artist's name steals on to programmes and records to suggest that he is now a leading light in his chosen field.

The doubt dispensed with, one can launch swiftly into praise for King's imaginative, varied choice of music and for his impressive singing of most of it. Nothing demanded more vocal athleticism, for example, than *Sigismondo D'India*'s typically spectacular monody "Giunto alla tomba", where King also showed a greater expressive flexibility than had earlier been evident in a pair of motets by Schutz, in Monteverdi's elaborate "Confitebor tibi, Domine", or in the free-ranging recitative of Carissimi's "Iustus es Domine".

The liberating influence at this stage of his recital was undoubtedly his three Dowland songs, where he was partnered by Anthony Rooley. Here he concentrated all his interpretive powers into conveying vividly the subtle emotions that are the result of an alchemical mix of words and music.

Songs like "I Saw My Lady Weep" and "Farewell Too Fair" certainly put examples by John Wilson, heard later, in the shade, though not of course Purcell, whose nimble "Come All Ye Songsters" and touching "The Cares of Lovers" and "What a Sad Fate" were other high points of the evening.

King is also quite a character actor, and this he amply proved by following a beautifully-controlled performance of Henry Lawes's "Farewell Despairing Hopes" and his crisp delivery of brother William Lawes's "Why So Pale and Wan" with a chunk from Matthew Locke's masque *Cupid and Death*, in which he comically contrived to fall in love with two apes.

The Consort of Musicke's bass viol player sportingly portrayed one of them, though elsewhere she joined her colleagues in the more conventional business of deftly providing continuo lines of attractively varied hues.

Stephen Pettitt

Radio Missing link in Welsh quality

If you live in London and the South you may easily entertain the belief that radio drama emanates from Langham Place and that's that. However, a superficial study of *Radio Times* ought to make it plain that several other centres - Bristol, Birmingham, Manchester - feed in a wealth of material to the networks and indeed shelter the talents of some of the best drama directors in the business. What may take a little more effort to discover is that the national regions - Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales - are running drama operations of their own but get little network hearing.

When it does get through, Scotland and Northern Ireland emerge as forces to be reckoned with. Scotland is maybe just a little way ahead. While the everlasting shadow of Irish history and its present manifestation in the Ulster conflict has been a recurring inspiration in Belfast, the Scots have no such ready source to hand. And possibly, that is an advantage.

But what about Wales? For some reason plays from Cardiff have made less impact. But this week's sequence of Welsh Drama presented a chance to see if that impression was a fair one.

We began with a Saturday Night Theatre: *Three of Swords* (Radio 4; director, Adrian Mourby) was a detective thriller by Mike Dorrell which seemed to be trying to reproduce on radio the fast, thrusting, impressionistic style dear to television. Inspector Mal Rees lands in serious trouble when the woman he is having on the side of a tottering marriage is found murdered. Although suspended, Rees bullies and browbeats colleagues and suspects alike until he drags the nasty truth to light. Accents apart, I could find nothing very specifically Welsh about the subject or the treatment, but then I did have a problem following what was going on.

Monday night on Radio 4 brought *Taken Out* (director, Adrian Mourby). Greg Cullen's play was about the attack on the troop transport

Cinema Susan Greenberg introduces two directors from the NFT's second Jewish season

Painful praise

The two men at the National Film Theatre this month to speak about their work - Claude Lanzmann and Rudolph van den Berg - have, as their subjects, genocide and Jewish identity. Even within the context of the current second Jewish Film Festival, these themes may seem well worn, even overdone. But in their different ways Lanzmann and van den Berg's work has helped to jolt the discussion from Hollywood turf on to original, although controversial, ground.

When *Shoah* (Part II is screened tomorrow) was shown this January on Dutch television - the first country to be allowed by Lanzmann to do so - thousands of people rang the special telephone number flashed at intervals on the screen, with calls continuing into the night. Painful memories kept private for more than 40 years were being prodded, spoken and relived in the nine-and-a-half-hour experience.

Holland might be thought of as a special case. The most fully integrated Jewish community in Europe also provided, paradoxically, the largest number of people who never returned from the camps. But everywhere *Shoah* has been hailed as a masterpiece, notably by Simone de Beauvoir and Marcel Ophuls, director of *The Sorrow and the Pity*. It will be shown later on Channel 4.

It is the past as sacred, token wisdom which is shaken up by Lanzmann's work. His aim was to understand the evil and lodge it permanently in the human conscience. Familiar documentary or fictional treatment, like the American *Holocaust* which Lanzmann hates so fiercely, cannot do this. His answer was to avoid all archives and bring alive the places and voices of people directly involved in the genocide.

"It is their own story that they tell", Lanzmann said about his own technique, "but to tell it is not enough; they must realize it." His success is

in making a film after which no one can say that it did not happen.

Identity is intimately linked to the past, and the Holocaust hovers like an absent ghost in Rudolph van den Berg's work. It was not this, however, but more recent history which sparked his very different project: an effort to untangle what it means to be Jewish for a generation that has grown up since the war and the creation of Israel. He tries to unravel the different strands of Jewish, Israeli, Zionist.

Van den Berg's strong point is ambiguity, although his films are very clear and understandable. After studying political science in Amsterdam he started off as a documentary film-maker in the 1970s. Since then he has moved steadily towards the feature film. He has gone from being "a political film-maker to a film-maker with a political consciousness".

Ambiguity itself is a certain kind of identity; the feeling of always being on the outside, examining oneself and others, a dissenter even within the Jewish world. His first important work falls easily in this role. The Dutch Jewish community tried to have it banned from television and it has never been shown in Israel, even though his other films have won praise there. *The Alien's Place*, shown earlier this week, was the product of "an angry young film-maker... a very anti-zionist Jew".

In *Bastille* (March 26) van den Berg had lost this early anger and practised the les-



Derek de Lint in van den Berg's *Bastille*

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SPORTS DIARY

Simon Barnes

Armour plated

Port of Spain Sports Diary has saved the life of England spinner Phil Edmunds. Only those who have lately seen the Edmonds torso — as I did at the Hilton swimming pool on a rest day in Trinidad — can know how close he and England's Test hopes were to death. Exactly over his heart was an immense ring of purple bruising. "If it hadn't been for the chest protector, I would have been a goner," he said. (He was recently presented with a handsome cigar humidifier by his wife, Frances, said she was planning to use it as a urinal.) The protector in question was the new lightweight Air-O-Wear half-waistcoat, the development of which was announced, and warmly recommended, in this column before the touring party had equipped themselves for the struggle.

Incidentally, the ferocious beamer that felled Edmunds has been thought of darkly as a retaliation for Edmonds' provocatively close fielding against Gordon Greenidge. But Edmonds believes that the ball was in fact a curious accident: an attempted yorker that slipped in the hand as Patrick Patterson bowled. Accident or not, it was a bellicious ball.

Wind of change

Newcomer Patterson, incidentally, is the biggest surprise of the series so far — ask any Lancastrian. He played for Lancashire last season as their now traditional nuclear weapon import from the West Indies. But he was especially disappointing to the Lancastrians, never fully fit, apparently never truly happy and seldom bowling with memorable venom. But now, only a few months later, he has been recognized as the fastest bowler in the world today, even the fastest ever. My respected colleague John Woodcock says "there is nothing in it" between him and the legendary Frank Tyson. Perhaps it needed traditional Jamaican rather than traditional Lancastrian weather to bring out Patterson's talent. But those who follow Lancashire cannot believe it is the same man.

Chat show

Carlisle Best is another newcomer to the West Indian squad, and he is a man with a number of peculiarities. Chief among them is his habit of giving a Radio Three ball-by-ball commentary while he is playing. "Here comes Ellison — and Best is right behind that one," says Best, as he blocks. Then, as he moves into the attack: "And Best cases that through the covers — what a beautiful stroke." Lawrence Rowe, the former West Indies batsman, used to drive close fielders mad with his incessant whistling of calypso tunes, but the loquacious Best seems to have outdone him.

● The rigours of the tour have caused a new cricketing phrase to enter the language: the "perfume ball". It refers to the one that goes past the end of your nose and leaves a whiff of burnt leather in the air.

Speedy recovery

Edmonds is not the only England casualty. Spare a thought for Fred, the bowling machine. He pulled a hamstring earlier this week but diligent physiotherapy on his battery soon brought him back to full 90mph pace.

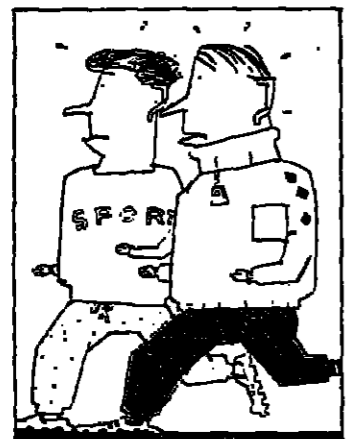
Spin-off

The protesters who have been demonstrating outside the ground in Trinidad, trying to bring about an island-wide boycott of the tour, have brought together some imaginative slogan-writers. "West Indies Cricket Board of Control run by Thatcher" was the most imaginative. The most charming was "Dey feel all ah we born in silly mid-off".

Shallow end

When not watching the cricket or pounding my typewriter, I am as amenable as anyone to relaxing round the hotel pool. But another member of the press corps takes a disapproving view of such hedonism, whether for hacks or players. This is Geoffrey Boycott, who, non-player though he is, still has a spell in the nets every morning. When he was an England cricketer he had confronted by one of those "reasons for visit" spaces on immigration forms, he always wrote "business". "I like sunbathing but I'm not here for a holiday — I'm here for business," he was wont to say. "And my business is making runs."

BARRY FANTONI



'Actually I'm training to run away from fashionable charities'

Pill: the doctors' dilemma

Nicholas Timmins analyses the confusion over consulting room secrecy since the Law Lords' ruling on Gillick

How great is the doctor's obligation of confidentiality to girls under the age of 16 seeking contraceptive advice? Doctors, parents and the girls themselves are totally confused.

Final clear judgement by the House of Lords last October, which seemed finally to end Mrs Victoria Gillick's five-year battle to win for parents the right to be informed if their children are prescribed the pill, the position now is clouded by conflicting views of what the law really is. There are three separate but overlapping sets of advice to doctors from the General Medical Council, the British Medical Association and now the Department of Health.

So what is the legal position, what are the effects of the GMC's recent ruling likely to be, and how did we get into this mess?

It is worth going back to the beginning. When Mrs Gillick started her legal campaign the advice from the GMC (the doctors' disciplinary body), from the BMA (their professional association) and from the DHSS was all in line.

When an under-age girl sought the pill, the doctor had to make every effort to persuade her to involve her parents. If she refused he could, exceptionally, if he judged it in her best interests, to prescribe without informing them. The doctor also had to observe the normal rules of professional secrecy: he could not tell the parents or anyone else about the consultation without the patient's permission.

That duty is not absolute. In certain circumstances a doctor is legally obliged to breach confidence in the public interest: to report notifiable diseases or information relating to a serious crime, in cases of incest or child abuse, or when a poorly controlled

epileptic insists on continuing to drive.

But any doctor who breached the confidence of an under-age girl would have been open to disciplinary proceedings by the GMC. If a complaint was made he would have had to justify his action. If he failed to do so to the GMC's satisfaction, disciplinary action would have followed.

Mrs Gillick's attempt to have the law declare that a doctor's first duty was to parents, and that contraceptives could never be prescribed without their consent, failed in the House of Lords last October. The Law Lords however laid down five clear conditions. Among them, they insisted that the girl had to be mature enough to understand all the issues involved and that the new DHSS guidelines followed the Law Lords' judgement.

To a layman's reading, there is nothing in the judgement that states that when a girl is too immature to understand the issues, the doctor is therefore absolved of his duty of confidence. Yet that is the position the GMC has adopted.

The legal advice it took came chiefly from Professor Ian Kennedy, Professor of Medical Law and Ethics at King's College, London, who is not only a member of the GMC but sits on its standards committee which drew up the revised guidance. He was also counsel for the DHSS at the Law Lords' hearing.

His advice was that after the Law Lords' ruling the GMC could no longer tell doctors that they must observe secrecy; instead they

had to be left free to inform parents if they judged the girl too immature to enter into a "contract of confidence".

A balance had to be struck between the interests of the family and the child, and when the child was too immature the duty of confidence lay with the parents. Hence the GMC guidance that the doctor may (but does not have to) disclose the child's visit, although his decision to do so must reflect both the patient's best interests and the trust the child has placed in him.

It is this advice that has left other eminent lawyers baffled. The BMA is adamant that its legal advice is that in law there is still nothing to stop the GMC insisting that the normal rules of secrecy apply to under-age patients.

Professor Glanville Williams, former Professor of English Law at Cambridge University, says firmly that the judgement has "absolutely nothing to say" on the question of whether the doctor can tell the parents if he considers the girl too immature. "No sentence in it either states or implies an answer to that question".

Professor Williams says: "There is no legal contract of confidentiality between a health service doctor and the parents and there is nothing in law to say whether the doctor should always tell the parents about a consultation or never tell them. It is an issue of medical ethics, not a legal issue".

In practice what the GMC's ruling has done is shift the burden of proof of the doctor. Under the old rules, a decision to breach confidence would have to be

justified. Now, in the case of immature under-age girls, the doctor no longer has to do so and his judgement that the girl was too immature is not an issue that could be challenged before the GMC.

It is there that the BMA and the GMC part company. Dr John Marks, chairman of the BMA's council, says: "The onus of proof should remain on the doctor. Under the old rules the doctor could breach the girl's confidence, but would have had to justify his action. Now he no longer has to".

The BMA says its prime concern is that the GMC's ruling turns going to the doctor into a lottery for an under-age girl. Not until the end of the consultation will she know whether the doctor will maintain her confidence or not. Because the GMC's advice is not mandatory — the doctor may tell, but is not obliged to — some GPs will always maintain confidentiality, some may not. The BMA and other family planning clinics have guaranteed that their doctors will do so.

The probable result is that more under-age girls go to the clinic and fewer to their GPs, for fear their GP may tell. Yet it is the GP, who best knows the family, who has the better chance of persuading the girl to involve her parents. To that extent, at least, the GMC has done parents and their young patients a disservice. It would do well to go back to where it started and state that the normal rules of professional secrecy should again apply. Any doctor who still genuinely felt it was in the girl's best interest to tell her parents that she was seeking the pill could still do so. But the onus would be back on the doctor to justify his breach of confidence if a patient complained.

The author is Social Services correspondent of The Times.

James Ferguson
Glaring gaps in the salmon net

Of all our freshwater fish, the salmon reigns supreme. Found for pound it is gamier than any other fish and provides excellent sport for the angler. As a food it is incomparable. But for years the salmon has been a fish in decline.

In 1973 the total catch of Atlantic wild salmon was around 10,000 tonnes; by 1984 it was down to 5,400 tonnes. Thirty years ago the Torridge river in Devon had a rod catch of 883 fish a year. In 1985, that figure had fallen to fewer than 50.

It does not have to be that way. The success story of the River Thames, in which salmon can now thrive, shows what can be done. Salmon stocks can be maintained, even restored. But it takes sound and active management.

The government, which alone has responsibility for total fish stocks, has never lacked advice and well-considered reports on the salmon. The Hunter and Bledisloe reports of early 1960s researched the problems objectively. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food issued its own consultative document in 1981.

But comprehensive legislation was long overdue. The Salmon Bill, now before Parliament, should have been it.

As drafted, the bill:

- Set up a scheme for licensing dealers in salmon, to help curb the traffic in illegally-caught fish.
- Introduced a new offence, being in possession of illegally caught fish, which was also designed to combat the growing problem of poaching.
- Provided for useful changes in the composition of the district salmon fishery boards which manage the fishery along the major salmon rivers.

But the bill contained a nonsense. The dealer licensing system was for Scotland only, suggesting that the fish caught and marketed in England and Wales do not deserve protection.

Wisely, however, the government sent the bill first to the House of Lords. The peers turned out to be a great store of accumulated fishing wisdom. So far, in 29 hours of debate on 157 amendments to the bill, the Lords have shown themselves effective representatives of the interests of anglers and fishing proprietors as well as commercial net operators. (One can reasonably assume that many of their lordships are expert with a fly and enjoy the occasional dish of smoked salmon.) With their revisions, the bill has been transformed.

The licensing system, for example, has now been extended to England and Wales, although it is proposed that licences should be

administered through the water authorities, which are shortly to be privatized. A new clause is intended to stop the suspect business of licenses sub-letting their privilege to others.

Next week this small but significant bill goes into committee in the House of Commons. There is much work to be done. For example, it does not do enough to restrict the drift-net fishery that operates off the Northumberland and Yorkshire coasts, taking an annual bank of salmon equivalent to the total catch in Scotland by rod and line. This is ironic because about 95 per cent of the fish caught in the North-East are on their way back to spawn in the rivers of Scotland's east coast where they originated. There is an added poignancy in that drift-net fishing was banned in Scotland more than 20 years ago.

The government has not yet formulated a comprehensive policy on the conservation of salmon stocks. It has committed itself to a review of stocks within three years, but this is to cover only the Northumbrian and Yorkshire Water Authority areas and the east of Scotland rivers. The survey will not apply to the rest of the United Kingdom. Overfishing will continue unabated. Symbolically, the word "conservation" does not appear anywhere in the bill as it now stands.

The UK, through the EEC, supports a body called Nasco, the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization, which next meets in June. Its members will hope to increase their individual quotas. What does Britain say? We shall be held up to the rest as a nation which still enjoys a rich harvest of salmon but is doing little or nothing to conserve them at a time when total stocks are threatened and restrictions are being placed on small countries such as Greenland.

The government insists that the Salmon Bill must cost little to implement, and preferably should cost nothing. The result will be a perpetuation of management by neglect, especially in Scotland. No extra money is being provided to combat poaching, which in some areas has become virtually a paramilitary activity.

Salmon fishing is a recreation that attracts tourists. It generates jobs. Yet this valuable asset is being treated in a piecemeal fashion, and so damaged. The Salmon Bill provides an opportunity to put the management of this self-renewing national resource on a sound basis. That is the task still facing Parliament.

The author is director of the Salmon and Trout Association.

Philip Howard

Oops, there he goes again

Atex: Log on; Log on; Log on. Proflex: In the beginning was the Logon. And the Logon was with God. And the Logon was God. What are you chattering and flickering for at this unearthly hour, Atex, like a nest full of starling fledglings? NXSTY. NXSTY. NXSTY. Away and Abort yourself.

Atex: Syntax Wrong. Unauthorized Access. No Such Command. What's the matter with you, Surly old Software? Got out of the computer the wrong side this morning, did you, with your floppy disc in a twist? How's your keyboard, then?

Proflex: Thank you, VDU, the agony is abated. I must say, these journals are heavy-handed for high tech. My man is the fastest one-finger typist in the trade, and he pecks at me like a starling woodpecker. He keeps on boasting, in that crude human way, that he has cracked the computer. This claim is true only in the literal denotation. He has indeed had to have my keyboard replaced twice, because he has cracked it.

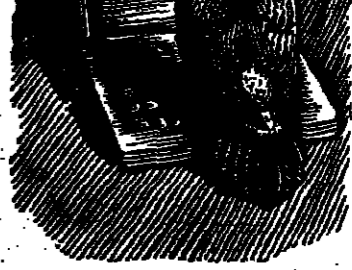
Atex: How are you getting on with training the fool? Proflex: In my brief experience of it, human intelligence is limited, and unsuited for the sunrise world of high tech. It took my man a week to twig that the Oops key, which he presses when he makes what he calls, in facetiously old-fashioned prep school slang, a bish (an occurrence of tedious frequency, like every other time he hits the key) is, when you depress the Super Shift, also the key for sending copy to the printer. So he would get towards the end of punching out a long review by one of his critics, commit one of his technological solecisms, and Oops, his screen would go blank, and his review had vanished beyond his ken. So he would suck his thumb for a bit, weep, and start punching out the piece all over again. He worked out the mystery of the disappearing copy only when the Head Printer came to him with a bundle of half-finished galleys, and asked what in the Great Computer in the Sky was going on.

Atex: Ho, ho, ho. Uprivee and Angstrom. What larks, Proflex. Proflex: Talking of accents, the poor fool has just discovered how to print them. It took him a day to work out that they appear on the screen before, not above, the character they are going to decorate. He expended, literally, blood, sweat, and tears, trying to force his first acute accent to sit on top of its E. An impossibility in our logical world. Now he is childishly proud

of his infantile new knowledge, and creates opportunities to use accents. He altered the copy of one of his down-to-earth reviewers to include the pseud Lit Crit word *aperçus*, merely for the pleasure of trying out his Cedilla.

Atex: You Split my Screen. Go to Head.

Proflex: There was the great indenting caper. My man needs to indent parts of his pieces, mainly extended quotations from books.



Cute Worm

But because he does not know his picares from his points, never having been trained even as a steam-age sub-editor, he gave the wrong command. His word is my command; so I converted his 1,200-word lead review into a thin column only two characters wide. It streaked up his screen for a quarter of an hour, like the Moose's Tale in *Alice*, but straight not curly

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th
is

He started to laugh hysterically. But every time he laughed, his back-ache caught him, and he struck. Eventually, when his long tale had almost run to its end he panicked and pressed Copy Super Shift, and sent the whole grotesque streak of prose to the Head Printer, causing that great man to shake his head yet again at the fickle ways of journals. My man muttered something offensive about computers being clever but having no intelligence.

Atex: He's quite wrong about u having no intelligence. Human journals are merely the bod carriers as we build the Perfect City of high tech. I am studying the 'self-indulgent' rubbish the write. Give us a year or two, and we shall be able to do away with them altogether, and produce perfect, inhuman newspapers.

Richard Bassett on the scandal that has shaken Austrian Catholics

Strange tale of the abbot of Rein

Vienna Monastic life in Austria has its rewards. In addition to spiritual recompense, there is the splendour of living in some of the most inspiring medieval and baroque buildings in Europe and sharing the finest wines and most picturesque estates in the country.

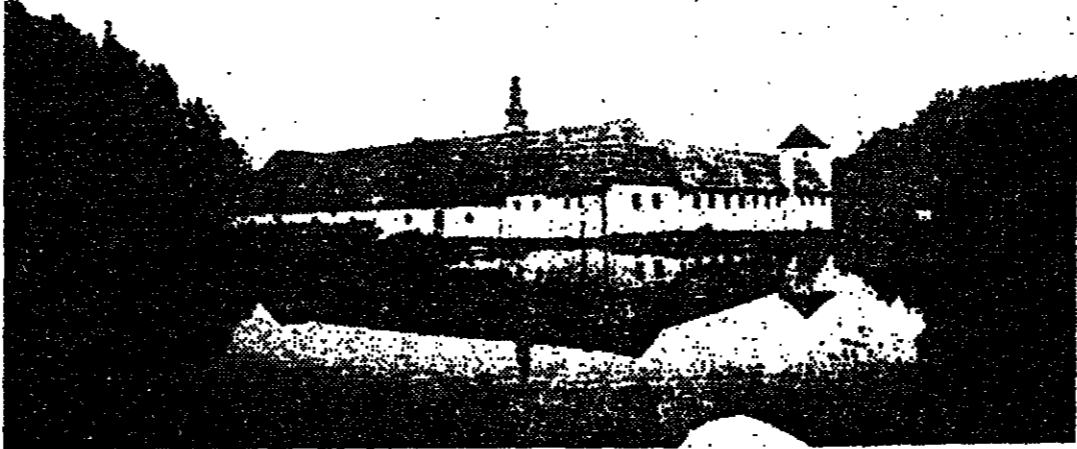
Anyone who has enjoyed the hospitality of these excellent institutions, however briefly, will testify that these delights more than compensate for rising at 6am for prayers. For Father Paulus Rappold, until last month the abbot of the Cistercian monastery of Rein, the 850-year-old foundation with its vast accumulated wealth became a scene of outrageous profligacy.

In his 12-year supervision of the Cistercians' oldest monastery in Austria, the abbot managed to run up £5 million of debts, and allegedly appropriated parcels of monastic property and seduced several village women.

The revelation of these sins horrified millions of devout Austrian Catholics and came as a blow to the Cistercian order, which in contrast to the more modest Benedictine brethren in Austria considers itself, somewhat condescendingly, to be the *ne plus ultra* of religious piety.

When Rappold was denounced by the senior Cistercian abbot in Austria, Dr Dominik Nimmer-voll, he disappeared, then telephoned Austrian radio to say he would explain all as soon as he had recovered from a foot injury. So far he has not publicly explained anything, but this week he did turn up at a police station in his Mercedes, accompanied by his lawyer to answer preliminary questions pending possible charges.

Whatever may emerge, it is unlikely to restore the confidence of Austrian Catholics in the way the monasteries are run. Until the Rappold scandal broke, the image that the Cistercians enjoyed among devout Catholics corresponded to the portraits of the founder of the order, St Robert of Molesme, which with benign calm



Like something from a tourist brochure, the Cistercian monastery at Rein. Below, Father Rappold entertains in the monastery restaurant. His interest in some local women, it is said, was more than pastoral



gaze down on the congregations of the Cistercians' eight parishes in Austria.

At the Rein monastery, built like all Cistercian establishments in a quiet valley remote from medieval traffic arteries, the dozen monks and the neighbouring villagers are trying to pursue normal lives while the fraud squad conducts extensive inquiries.

What the investigations have already uncovered has amazed Austria. Not only is the abbot alleged to have cost his order millions of pounds, he is alleged to have borrowed on his own account £1.25 million of which the monastery has no record. In 1978 he is reported to have appropriated 40 acres of land and a small farmhouse. He had earlier restored a small hunting lodge which he used for entertaining politicians and bankers on a lavish scale. This group was like an

exclusive club, known to locals as the Rein Circle.

But that seems minor compared with the allegations concerning Rappold's success with women. The six-foot-three, 47-year-old Mercedes-driving abbot was in great demand socially. He was able within months of his appointment as abbot to establish a fundraising committee comprising the wives of virtually every aristocratic family in the area, including a daughter of the last Austrian emperor.

According to Father Paulus Kamper of the nearby village of Gratkorn, Rappold's ability to charm the ladies was not confined to innocent fundraising. "I should not wish to disclose the secrets of the confessional," he says, "but I believe it to be in this affair's interests to say that I and other priests have often heard of cases involving the breaking of the sixth

commandment in which the partner mentioned was Father Rappold."

But although no fewer than 10 Cistercian monks are reported to have left Rein in protest at their abbot's way of life, it remains a mystery how he was able for so long to avoid discipline from on high over his self-indulgence or his financial affairs.

The Vatican did not begin investigating the monastery's affairs until last winter. The autonomous status of Austria's monasteries had kept the abbot free from the prying eyes of taxation officials.

What greatly disturbs Austrian Catholics (who have to pay a so-called church tax if they wish to be sure of a Catholic burial) is the ease with which Rappold's escapades went undetected by the Cistercians' own disciplinary bodies.

In theory, all transactions by a monastery involving more than about £250,000 should be referred to the Vatican. In addition to this check, the chief abbot of the order makes a tour of inspection to every monastery in his jurisdiction at least once every six years. The most recent inspection of Rein occurred a year after the abbot had allegedly appropriated some monastery property but no action was taken.

The Rappold case has thus undermined the ease with which an ambitious cleric can tamper with the vast funds committed to his charge. In many of the orders, the predominance in the upper echelons of older monks ignorant of the ways of the modern world can put at risk the unique treasures of these establishments, which are an essential part of Austria's heritage.

Abbots and priests have been in pains in recent days to insist that the Rein scandal is "an exception" but only a serious tightening of their controls over the men who run them will serve to restore confidence.

Keeping television 'imperialism' at bay

New York Four years ago, Jack Lang, France's Minister of Culture, called for "a crusade against financial and intellectual imperialism that no longer or rarely grabs territory, but grasps consciousness, ways of thinking, ways of living".

He was referring principally to American television. He said it had overwhelmed the broadcast channels of every country in the world. Many political and cultural leaders in developed countries and in the Third World shared his concern.

Today, however, concern about American "cultural imperialism" has diminished, according to Anthony Smith, author of *The Geopolitics of Information: How Western Culture Dominates the World*. Derek de Kerckhove, co-director of the McLuhan Program in Culture and Technology at the University of Toronto, agrees. "Other countries are learning to deal with television," he says. He has in mind the strides that nations from Mexico to India

have made in producing entertainment of their own, and the restrictions they now impose on American programmes.

Where popular local alternatives exist, Smith says, American shows have lost their allure. In Nigeria, for example, a local series called *The Mirror in the Sun*, a soap opera launched in 1984, has gripped the whole country.

In India, two programmes in Hindi have also reduced American predominance. One of them, a series about a large family, has inspired more than a dozen other shows.

But even countries with plenty of programmes of their own have decided that a tougher response to American programming is needed. Britain, for example, limits American shows, including films, to 14 per cent of all television time. In France, when the government announced the formation of a second commercial television channel, mainly devoted to music, it said it would have to transmit at least 450 hours

of French shows and videos in its first year.

Concern about the glut of American entertainment still runs high in Canada, where a survey found that people watch 45 hours of American drama for every hour of Canadian. Last month the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation proposed removing virtually all American programmes from its network by 1987 to give what it called "equal time for Canada".

Meanwhile the international market for programmes from any and every source is growing. The International Television Programme Market, held every April in France, was attended last year by representatives of 117 nations. "The world is getting a whole variety of programming sold more and more across international markets," said Kim Spenser, president of Internets, which sets up simultaneous satellite links.

Last year's offerings were still predominantly American. But mixed in with *Dallas* and *Dynasty*

were programmes such as *The Yellow River*, a 5,000-Year Journey, co-produced by Japanese and Chinese television, and *The Footprint of Crime*, from Spain. And Lang's position notwithstanding, French companies are among the most active sellers of programmes.

Nevertheless, some worry that the ability of countries to produce their own television shows is being outpaced by the even faster growth in global telecommunications. The problem is that governments and broadcasters cannot afford to produce enough local material so they turn to the world market.

De Kerckhove of the McLuhan Program argues, however, that as the communications boom continues, producers will find that they have to learn to respect local culture. "Global producers will localize more," he predicts, "to put people in touch with other regions in the world and with other problems in the world."

Philip Gutis
©New York Times, 1986

Edward Yarnold

Sister churches united not absorbed

Despite words of commendation from the Pope and the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1982, the Final Report of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission has been no more than the ecumenical equivalent of a White Paper...

life, worship and mission" of which Pope Paul VI and Archbishop Donald Coggan spoke in 1977, would retain their individuality.

What is likely to happen in 1988? It would be a surprise - a most agreeable one in the mind of the present writer - if the two churches were to endorse every clause in the report...

Each of the churches is at present considering to what extent it can endorse the report. This procedure is due to be completed by about 1988, a crucial year in the history of relations between them.

Whatever amount of agreement emerges, no one will believe that the Churches really want to be reunited unless the agreement is followed by action. In the words of the final report: "There are high expectations that significant initiatives will be boldly undertaken."

But it is unreasonable either to hope or to fear that the churches' judgements on ARCIC in 1988 will be followed by one great leap forward to full unity. ARCIC's more realistic target has always been "reunion by stages".

The attitudes of the ordinary members of the two churches to this process span a gamut from ignorance, through apathy, to either apprehension or hope. I doubt whether either church has yet fully grasped the need for a determined and organized effort to overcome the first two reactions.

But it is unreasonable either to hope or to fear that the churches' judgements on ARCIC in 1988 will be followed by one great leap forward to full unity. ARCIC's more realistic target has always been "reunion by stages".

Another word, the marriage of the churches will only be possible after a gradual courtship, during which they come progressively to understand and trust one another.

Many people in each of the churches are afraid of having to sacrifice their identity. The Anglicans of becoming absorbed into the larger church, the Roman Catholics of diluting their faith for the sake of the others. This need not be so. It is true some ecumenists wish uniting churches to cease to exist as distinct bodies so as to form only "one church in one place".

However, two complex problems stand in the way of this recognition of ministries: Leo XIII's Bull Apostolicae Curiae of 1896, which declared Anglican orders "absolutely null and utterly void", and the fact that many of the clergy in some provinces of the Anglican Communion are women, whose ordina-

tion the Roman Catholic church regards as impossible. Therefore it may be necessary to devise for this next stage a less ambitious scenario. The second ARCIC, whose duty it is to plan the required steps, will in that case need to use all its ingenuity to work out a new relationship between the churches which involves a true growth in practical unity which all can recognize.

The Princess of Wales, Patron of the British Red Cross, will attend a luncheon at the Victoria and Albert Museum on March 13.

Edward Yarnold, SJ, is a Roman Catholic member of ARCIC.

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COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

KENSINGTON PALACE March 7: The Prince of Wales, on behalf of The Queen, held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning. His Royal Highness, on behalf of Her Majesty, today conferred upon Mr John Higgs the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the insignia of a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

The Queen will make a private visit to Kentucky, United States, from May 22 to 26. Princess Alexandra and the Hon Angus Ogilvy will visit Thailand, as guests of the King and Queen, from April 10 to 14.

The Duchess of Gloucester has become Honorary Freeman of The Worshipful Company of Gold and Silver Wre Drawers. Princess Anne, President of the British Council, will attend an Export Council, will attend "Reflections", a pageant of British fashion, in aid of the Save

Mr M.J. Siggers and Miss K.F. Moore. The engagement is announced between Mark, eldest son of Mr and Mrs George Siggers, of Merstham, Surrey, and Kate, daughter of Mr and Mrs Duncan Moore, of Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire.

Mr R.J. Wagburn and Miss E.K. Miller. The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Mark Wagburn, of Brill, and Kate, daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Miller, of Totnes.

Mr J.G. Waterson and Miss J.C. Weedon. The engagement is announced between John Graham, son of Mr and Mrs J.B. Waterson, of Little Gaddesden, Hertfordshire, and Julia Charlotte, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.M. Weedon, of Tetbury, Gloucestershire, and Hong Kong.

Mr S.R. Williams, RAF, and Miss S.J. Fairweather. The engagement is announced between Stephen, elder son of Mr and Mrs D.C. Williams, of Laleston, Mid-Glamorgan, and Susan, only daughter of Mr and Mrs J.A. Fairweather, of St Nicholas, South Glamorgan.

Mr M. B. Rawlence and Miss E. Rawlence. The marriage took place in London on Saturday, March 1, 1986, between Mr Maurice Bilmes and Miss Emily Rawlence, daughter of Mr and Mrs A. Rawlence, of 9 The Warren, Carshalton, Surrey.

Mr P.N.R. Buchanan and Miss M.L. Foster. The engagement is announced between Peter, elder son of Commander and Mrs M.E. Buchanan, of Havant, Hampshire, and Marnie, daughter of Dr and Mrs P.J. Foster, of Streffield.

Mr J.P.S. Donnelly and Miss J.M. Procter. The engagement is announced between John Donnelly, 2nd and Mrs P.J.D. Donnelly, of Lyne Park, Cheshire, and Jennifer Procter, Women's Royal Army Corps, daughter of the late Wing Commander F.D. Procter, DFC, RAF, (ret) and Mrs F.D. Procter, of Crockey Hill, York.



Kampo Harada, one of Japan's leading calligraphers, demonstrating his art at the British Museum yesterday. He will give public demonstrations at 11 and 2.30 at the museum today. (Photograph: Suresh Karadia)

Services tomorrow

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8.30 AM. Evensong. 10.30 AM. Morning Prayer. 12.30 PM. Lunch. 2.30 PM. Evensong. 4.30 PM. Evensong. 6.30 PM. Evensong. 8.30 PM. Evensong.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8.30 AM. Evensong. 10.30 AM. Morning Prayer. 12.30 PM. Lunch. 2.30 PM. Evensong. 4.30 PM. Evensong. 6.30 PM. Evensong. 8.30 PM. Evensong.

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL: 8.30 AM. Evensong. 10.30 AM. Morning Prayer. 12.30 PM. Lunch. 2.30 PM. Evensong. 4.30 PM. Evensong. 6.30 PM. Evensong. 8.30 PM. Evensong.

ST MARK'S CHURCH: 8.30 AM. Evensong. 10.30 AM. Morning Prayer. 12.30 PM. Lunch. 2.30 PM. Evensong. 4.30 PM. Evensong. 6.30 PM. Evensong. 8.30 PM. Evensong.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH: 8.30 AM. Evensong. 10.30 AM. Morning Prayer. 12.30 PM. Lunch. 2.30 PM. Evensong. 4.30 PM. Evensong. 6.30 PM. Evensong. 8.30 PM. Evensong.

ST PETER'S CHURCH: 8.30 AM. Evensong. 10.30 AM. Morning Prayer. 12.30 PM. Lunch. 2.30 PM. Evensong. 4.30 PM. Evensong. 6.30 PM. Evensong. 8.30 PM. Evensong.

Service dinners

HAC Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Huxtable was the guest of honor at the annual dinner of Squadron, Honorable Artillery Company, held at Armoyn House last night.

Royal Marines The Royal Marines Officers' Dinner Club held their annual dinner at Lincoln's Inn last night. Major-General J.L.H. Owen presided and the guests included Major-General T. Rudolphie, the Ven N.D. Jones, Mr Michael Wheeler, OC, Captain Malcolm Carver and Surgeon Captain D. Churchill-Davidson.

The Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry Colonel Simon Townley presided at the annual rose dinner of the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry held last night at Lancaster House, London.

RAF Strike Command Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Harding, AOCinC, and Lady Harding attended a ladies guest night held at HQ RAF Strike Command, High Wycombe, last night.

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OBITUARY

ERIC BROWN Pugnacious Ryder Cup captain

Eric Brown who died on March 6, aged 61, was an abrasive Scottish golfer whose outstanding achievement was his unbeaten singles record in the Ryder Cup matches against America.

In the 1950s, when European golf was still in the shadow of the United States, Brown excelled a fine elegance, not always polished but almost ahead of its time in its pugnacity and competitive hardness.

Eric Chalmers Brown, who was born in Edinburgh in 1925, started work as a railway fireman. At the age of 21 he came from nowhere to win the Scottish Amateur Championship. The same year, 1946, he turned professional. His whole career seemed linked to conflict, for he at once came up against the Professional Golfers' Association's regulation that a professional must wait for five years before competing for money.

This led him to look overseas for his living at first, and especially to the Continent where his successes included the Italian, Swiss and Portuguese titles.

It was in the matchplay element of the Ryder Cup that his fiery temperament was put to best use. Although in his four appearances in the 1950s he never looked likely to be in a successful foursome, yet he won all four of his 36 whole singles against distinguished names.

This first occurred in 1953 when he turned the tables on the American captain, Lloyd Mangrum at Wentworth; and the same quality was apparent in 1957 at Lindrick when, playing top against an equally fiery customer, Tommy Bolt who was to win the US Open the following year, Brown's domination of him led to the remarkable surge that gave Britain a quite unexpected victory.

Brown continued his turbulent career sometimes saying the right thing at the wrong time, sometimes upsetting members in the various clubs to which he became attached but never losing his popularity, especially with the Scots, in whose country, with John Pantou, he dominated the game for 20 years.

By 1969 he had mellowed enough for the authorities to rate his aggressive qualities more important in a captain than his shortcomings as a player. His old belligerence still showed, as when he instructed his men never to show such weakness as to help look for the opponent's ball in the rough, but in fact the tide match proved to be the happiest and smoothest occasion for many years.

His penchant for matchplay gave him two victories in the Matchplay championship, and he also won a Deaneop Masters Title; indeed the only big prize that eluded him was the Open Championship.

In this, his best was third at St Andrews in 1957, his task made no easier by the ecstatic Scottish crowd that escorted him, and again the following year at Royal Lytham.

Here he came to the 72nd green needing four to win; the drive was not good enough and the chance was gone. His putting was his most lethal weapon; in his driving, which was exceptionally long, he was always fighting a hook.

MR GEORGE WHITEHEAD

Mr George Whitehead, an unobtrusive but effective member of the wartime Special Operations Executive, died in Jersey on February 26.

He was brought up in Poland, where his family were leading manufacturers of chocolate. When he escaped to England with the Polish Air Force in the winter of 1939/40 he adopted his Welsh mother's maiden name.

During the Battle of Britain he was adjutant of 308 Squadron, RAF, at Northolt; its Polish fighter pilots played a leading part in the victory, at heavy cost.

The squadron intelligence officer, Forest Yeo-Thomas ("The White Rabbit"), moved on into the SOE, and asked Whitehead to follow him. They both worked in the Gauflist section and provided essential links between General de Gaulle and his supporters in occupied France.

Whitehead went by air into eastern France in the summer of 1944 on one of the inter-Allied missions to the Maquis. There he earned a Military Cross for almost reckless self-exposure to danger, while unarmed, to secure the safety of his companions.

He was otherwise a notably self-effacing man, quiet and steadfast in manner.

PROF KEITH WHINNON

Professor Keith Whinnon, Professor of Spanish at Exeter University and an acknowledged leader of British hispanism, died on March 6, aged 58.

He was born into a Northumberland mining family on August 17, 1927, and educated at King Edward VI Grammar School, Morpeth, and Jesus College, Oxford, where he gained first class honours.

In 1952 he went to the University of Hong Kong for his first lectureship. Finding the library devoid of Spanish books, he launched a new line of research, publishing monographs on the Spanish of the Philippines and the contact, venacular (pidgins) of that country.

Whinnon was a lecturer at Trinity College, Dublin from 1956-1961; professor of modern languages in the University of the West Indies from 1961-1967, when he was elected to the chair of Spanish at Exeter University. He served as dean of the Faculty of Arts from 1971-1973 and as deputy vice-chancellor from 1982 until his death.

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Science report

Cooling of the Sun heralds a mini ice age

The earth could be heading for a mini ice age in the next 40 to 50 years if the latest measurements of the Sun, showing a drop in the amount of energy it is producing, represent the start of a downward trend.

An indication that the Sun is cooling comes from monitoring by scientists of the radiation that is referred to as the solar constant, indicating that it was regarded as a stable factor.

Attributable to sun spot activity, this may not seem much very much. But when physicists translate this into the physics needed to explain what is happening to the fusion reactor that drives the solar system, they arrive at profound implications for the future of the climate on earth.

But while it appears to be declining in brightness, the Sun has expanded by about 100 kilometres over the same period. It may be that scientists are witnessing a normal part of a periodic cycle that has not been seen before. It would nevertheless still have a significant impact on the earth.

More accurate measurements of the solar radiation have been made over the past decade with the introduction of new instruments for use with satellites, which have been producing detailed recordings since 1979.

Research by Claus Friiskind of the Physical Meteorology Observatory, in Davos, agrees with this downward trend, and concludes that the figures are accurate to within plus or minus 0.0024 per cent.

Another satellite experiment by a group working with John Hickey of the Eppley Laboratory, Newport, Rhode Island, found a similar decrease in the ACRIUM experiment. That information was gathered from the Nimbus 7 weather satellite which had equipment for the Earth Radiation Budget, and which started measurements that have covered the period of the recorded data from all the other sources.

QUEEN ELIZABETH 2

A member of the Trafalgar House Group



March 8-14, 1986

SATURDAY

A weekly guide to leisure, entertainment and the arts

Going for gold in Arkle's kingdom



Blazing saddles: almost every race is a championship of some sort or another, culminating in the Gold Cup. 'People come to enjoy themselves but they do it in a very serious way. They drink seriously and they bet seriously.'

Sleepy Cheltenham goes wild next week as the racing world flocks in. Paul Haigh reports

Seventeen years after his death, the cult of Arkle is the key to the strange events which will take place in the shadow, or at least in the view, of Cleeve Hill near Cheltenham next week.

Arkle is a curiosity in sport — a competitor who was too good for the rules. Cheltenham was the scene of some of his most famous triumphs. His statue, a half-size bronze by sculptress Doris Lundner, stares out imperiously towards the paddock and has become a sort of shrine.

Every year at the time of the Cheltenham Festival, as the three-day March meeting is called, strange tributes appear around it. A single flower in a vase is always there. Little votive ribbons are tied to the legs. Hand-printed pieces of poetry that would make McGonagall gag adorn the plinth.

Cheltenham is the place for people who love horses at least as much as they love people. While they would, in the words of Mohammed Ali, "wake up and apologise" if they even dreamt of a superior, they come here just the same because they know that if there is a second coming this is where they are going to see it.

Forget the Grand National. That is almost an afterthought to the jumping season and the race itself almost an irrelevance as it is run over drop fences which aren't found anywhere else. The National may be a great test of courage and a source of fairly innocent pleasure to traditionalists and the people you're not supposed to call housewives any more. But for

the serious follower of jump racing Cheltenham, not Aintree, is the big deal.

Racing people are besotted by champions and almost every race at the Festival is a championship of one sort or another (for hurdlers, four-year-olds, stayers, two-milers and so on). The meeting culminates on Thursday in the Gold Cup, which is Arkle's race. He won it three times in a row before injury (elsewhere) cut him off in his prime, and it is in the Gold Cup that a worthy successor will one day, the believers trust, be revealed. If Cheltenham fever is an epidemic, this well of trust is its source.



Mary James
'I think it's a much healthier crowd than at Ascot'

But Cheltenham has a very secular side as well. "It's a professionals' meeting", according to racecourse manager Edward Gillespie. "People come to enjoy themselves but they do it in a very serious way. They drink seriously and they bet seriously and a lot of serious business gets done."

According to Bob Johnston of the Fosse Manor Hotel in Stow, it's like an old boys' reunion. "The same people come back over and over again. One bloke works in Saudi but he's back here every year for Cheltenham." Consider this when people tell you

that National Hunt racing is still a sport pure and simple and that the Flat is now just business. There is no real comparison between this first rite of a Gloucestershire spring and what goes on in Berkshire in summer.

"I think it's a much healthier crowd than at Ascot", says Mary James, who holds one of the innumerable festival week house parties at her small stud and stables in Stow-on-the-Wold.

It's a slightly enigmatic remark but you can see what she means. There is nothing at the royal meeting to compare with the meet at Bourton on the Water, or the famous luncheon buffets of Mr and Mrs Boy Pilkington who trained old Willie Wumpkins to win three times at festival meetings. The backbone of the crowd in the Cheltenham posh enclosure are country yeomen. At Ascot they're city slickers. The guests at Mary James's party are fed by Mrs Boulter, who comes in from Bledington for the week. The Ascot gang stay in "time" and go to night clubs. Both groups are capable of being very silly in the middle of the night, but there is something wholesome about country air.

The crowds will eat and drink prodigiously — both on and off the course. For this one week each year the normally rather dignified town of Cheltenham busts its stays. Bob Johnston believes that the average racing visitor is "an alcoholic insomniac".

"It's like harvest to me because they'll drink all night", he says with a sort of rueful confederacy. "But some of them are madmen. They'll do anything. They got a set of leg irons one year and chained me up in the bar."

No accommodation is available within about 15 miles of the town as not only the racing people but their predators descend on the place. Card-sharps cluster like flies on fertilizer, and a goodish number of

ladies of uncertain occupation turn up and don't even bother to leave their hotels for the racing. (The joke says that there are still a few Irishmen able to persuade their wives that Cheltenham is "men only" and that the Queen Mother, alone of all her sex, has been granted a dispensation to attend.)

Cheltenham is an Irish event as much as an English one. There are only two temporary banks on the course: the Allied Irish and the Bank of Ireland. They do say that the Irish contingent has been weaker in the last few years, what with the punt in a state of frenzy even against the pound and a relative dearth of horses



Bob Johnson
'It's like an old boys' reunion: one bloke comes from Saudi every year'

for them to idolize. (The English have been snapping them up for fancy prices.) This year, they've got Dawn Run, the great mare who is aiming to become the first horse to make the transition from Champion Hurdler (two miles, low obstacles) to Gold Cup winner.

Willie Mullins, the eldest son of the famous family from Goresbridge, Co. Kilkenny, who will be bringing Dawn Run over, reminds us that she won't exactly be playing away. "Over here they say that Cheltenham is the biggest race meeting in Ireland."

Mullins knows some of "the gammen" who'll be ready to shout the roof off the stand if she jumps the last fence in front. They include some of the priests who come over every year.

He knows men who in the past have set off on the boat with thousands and by the time they've reached Liverpool had to phone home for a ticket after losing the lot at cards. He knows others who are so bitten with the gambling bug that after a hard day at the course they will stake a professional card or backgammon player to a few thousand, go out eating and drinking and find out how they've done when they get back.

What makes Cheltenham different from other meetings, though, is that whatever the pecuniary or other interest involved everyone at that racecourse will be a fan who would give, not everything maybe, but a lot to be able to say "I was there when...". There is a psychological need for great horses, for invincible heroes and if another Arkle (blasphemous thought) does make him or herself known the cheering will be as loud from those who've drunk warm beer in the racetracks and coaches as from those who've sipped champagne before boarding the helicopter from country house to course.

A thought occurs. Say one day the stand fell down and there was nothing left on this bleak and windswept plain except the statue. Say an anthropologist from some future civilization came across it. What on earth would he make of it and its cultural significance?

Gore Vidal remarked recently that having lost religion some time ago the British have found nothing to put in its place "except perhaps horseracing". He had a point.

Paul Haigh is Chief Feature Writer for the Racing Post, the new daily racing newspaper to be launched on April 3.

CHEL TENHAM CHOICE



There are no weak days in Cheltenham week. Among the highlights of the first day's racing, on Tuesday, are the Arkle Trophy, which will find the best two-mile novice steeplechaser, and the Champion Hurdle.

Expensive headgear will be ingested if the latter, the ultimate aim of every hurdler, does not again fall to See You Then, the reigning champion and odds-on favourite.

The feature race on Wednesday is the Queen Mother Champion Chase over two miles, a distance which is something like a sprint for steeplechasers.

The main contenders are the Irish horses Bobelime and Buck House and the English Kathie's Lad. Two other "championship" races are the Sun Alliance Novices Hurdle (2 1/4 miles) and the Sun Alliance Chase (3 miles). The latter is a novices' version of the Gold Cup and an Irish favourite.

Thursday's Christmas Fox Hunters Challenge Cup (3 1/4 miles) represents for some

the essence of National Hunt racing, restricted as it is to amateur riders and horses which have hunted regularly this season. It is, however, overshadowed by the Gold Cup itself.

The Tote Gold Cup is the most important race on the jumping scene and the winner is, in normal circumstances, automatically acclaimed the champion steeplechaser.

Among well-known enthusiasts in the audience will be the Queen Mother, Princess Anne, Sheikh Ali Abu Khamzin and Kais-el-Said (so far the only jump-racing Arab), snooker players Steve Davis and Tony Meo, and Sir Alastair Burnet, the media celebrity.

The most desirable vantage points are the private boxes. There are 106 of them, costing up to £3,000 each. Seventy are held by individuals and the rest by companies. The racecourse does not release the names of boxholders nor of those on the waiting list. According to Edward Gillespie, the list is at least 20 years long and "those at the end certainly won't live long enough to get one".

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SATURDAY

The bargain bottles: how to stock up on wine and beat the Budget, p17

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White man's burdens

West Africa puts formidable obstacles in the path of the unseasoned traveller. Undeterred, Michael Watkins sets out to explore the magic and mystery of life in the bush as he continues his occasional series on far-flung places

It sounded like a good place to be. I'd never been to Ho; nor had I been to Kpandu, which looked quite close on the map...



A warm welcome: the friendly face of Benin

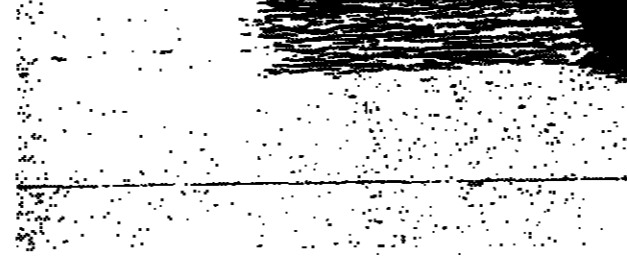
Dammit, I thought, they can keep Ho. I returned to Togo. Clinging to the road through the capital of Lomé, I traversed the Republic...

Leaving town next morning I drove beneath banners: 'Marxism-Leninism is Our Guide'. Main thoroughfares were tarred and decorated with more heroic statues...

constituted an act of police harassment with only the thinnest disguise. 'Unless you make it worthwhile, you will be detained indefinitely'...

Back in Togo I became preoccupied with breasts and brassieres - but not in a furtive, unhealthy way, you should understand...

At Gnave they looked spectacular, considering that 20,000 of them live in the centre of a lagoon, families bursting out of frail bamboo dwellings built on stilts...



Working on water: villagers take to the boats in the lagoon at Gnave, where thousands live in homes on stilts

click" gestures that I should photograph them, laughing crazily when I did. Odd this, mostly the Beninoise and Togolese turned away angrily from my camera.

From Togoville I plunged into a King Solomon's Mine of the interior: Vogan-Tsevi-Nome. There were a few women cooking over open fires, in



Palms and palm: on the shores of Lake Togo



They say there are 45 dialects - including Ewe and Kabye, possibly even the rare tongues of Gbo and Wug - but French got me from one village to the next...

They say there are 45 dialects - including Ewe and Kabye, possibly even the rare tongues of Gbo and Wug - but French got me from one village to the next...

Leaving Africa to the Africans; as it was in the beginning. And whether they cry havoc or whether they perform miracles, on their own heads be it.

Bright lights beckon TRAVEL NEWS

British Airways' Sovereign Holidays subsidiary is offering what it claims is the widest available selection of city holidays, including long weekends in Washington or New York from £314.

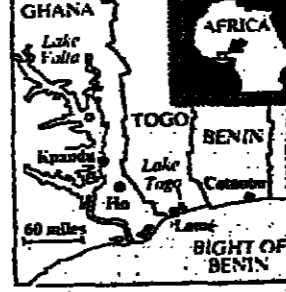
The programme also includes three-centre holidays, combining Moscow with Leningrad and Kiev, or Rome with Florence and Venice.

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Long weekends in Albania, Europe's most inaccessible country, are being operated from October by London-based Voyages Jules Verne.

Philip Ray

TRAVEL NOTES



Kuoni offers 10-day holidays in Togo at the Hotel Sarakawa (double room with a sea view, including continental breakfast and dinner) from £630-£680 per person...

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TRAVEL

A great break for macaroni

The delights of Liguria include some spectacular pasta, as Frances Bissell discovered on a gastronomic holiday

In 1929 an American magazine, the *Macaroni Journal*, ran a feature which started the rumour that Marco Polo had introduced pasta to Italy from China. Eva Agnesi, the president of one of Italy's largest pasta factories, showed me the article — and material that effectively refuted it — as we toured the Spaghetti Museum at Pontedassio, a few miles inland from Imperia on the Ligurian Riviera. Further archival material was quickly produced to dispel forever, for me at least, this ludicrous myth.

Why, in 1244 a Genoese doctor was telling a patient that he should give up "pasta lissa". Marco Polo wasn't born until 1254. In 1279, while he was still wandering in China, a merchant wrote in his will that he was leaving a large quantity of dried "maccheroni" to some lucky beneficiary.

The Museo degli Spaghetti is one of the many fascinating diversions of this part of north-west Italy, a corner of the country not much visited by the English who, in rushing to get to their beloved Tuscany, usually bypass this peaceful bay with its small towns and fishing villages.

Some of these places are grand and fashionable, like San Remo and Bordighera. Some are small, slightly shabby, unfashionable, bustling and full of people going about

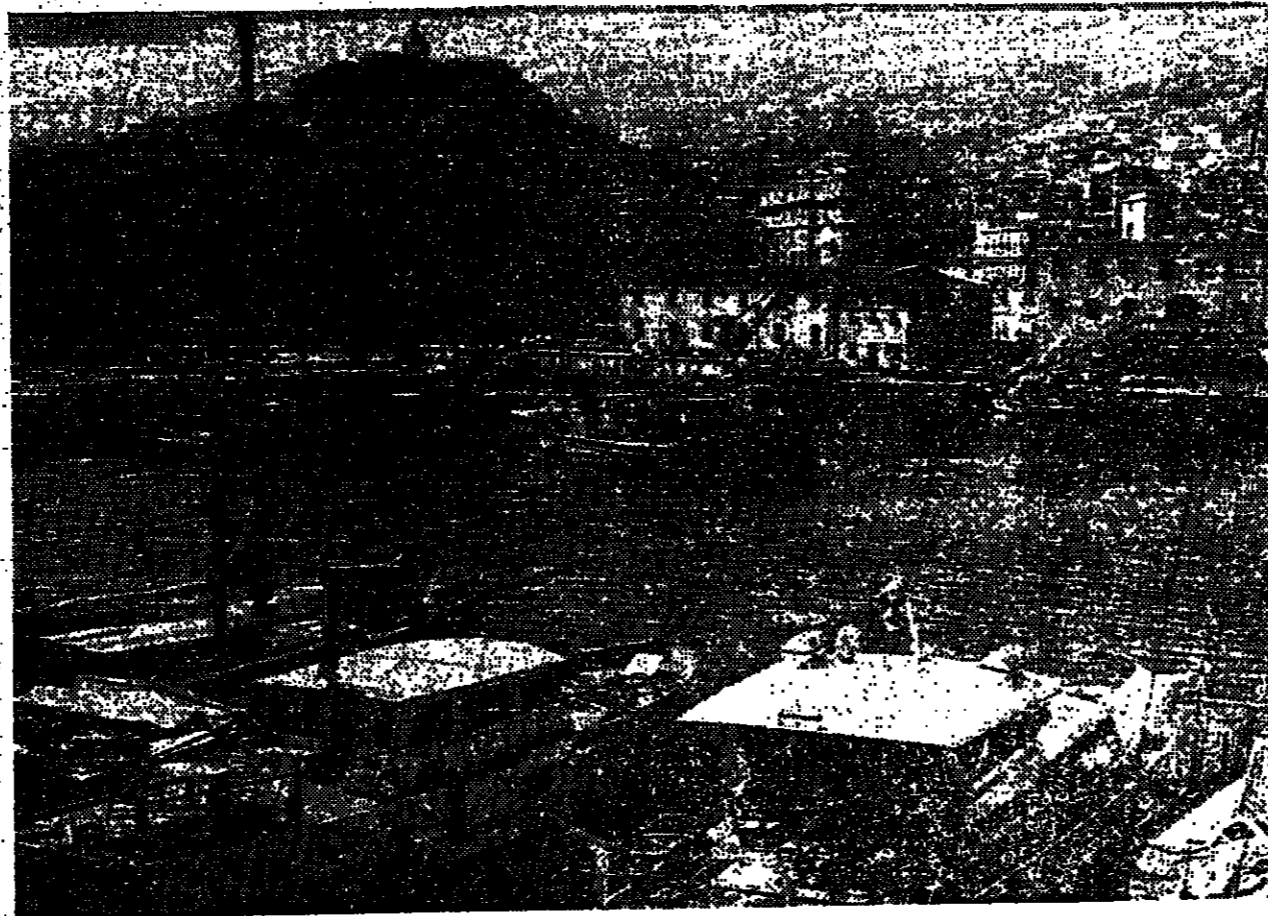
their everyday business. These include the twin towns of Oneglia and Porto Maurizio, which make up the main agglomeration on the Bay of Imperia.

I was based in Porto Maurizio for a few days last June for the Mediterranean Food Fair, and I liked its simplicity. It is an area of small, often family-run, hotels with their own spick and span beaches. The Corallo, where I stayed, is a light, bright, airy, comfortable and spotless hotel on a cliff overlooking the bay.

Although most of the beach area is private it is possible to gain access to the rocks for swimming and sunbathing — if you must. For above all Liguria is a place to eat your way around.

Olive oil, pasta, fish and wine are the main products of the area, and seemed to form most of the meals I ate. Olive groves were to be seen in the hinterland up winding, beautiful valleys, with small towns perched on hilly prominences. Torria is one such, a tiny village almost above the olive line. I remember it mainly for the delicious meal eaten in an empty dining room in L'Uliva, a rustic restaurant overlooking the misty valley.

Outstanding dish of that meal was the *ravioli con le ortiche*, home-made pasta filled with young nettle tops.



Discreet charm: San Remo in Liguria, a region often bypassed by English tourists in favour of Tuscany

Other specialities included rabbit, snails, wild mushrooms, kid and pasta stuffed with truffles.

A meander up another valley inland from Ventimiglia will take you to the medieval town of Dolceaqua. Picturesquely situated next to the river Nervia with the Ponte Vecchio, an elegant humpback bridge joining the two parts of the town, Dolceaqua is worth a visit.

Wander the old streets of both the "borgo" and the "terra", where the castle built by the Doria family in the 13th century was destroyed by earthquake in 1887, and end your morning with lunch either at the Hotel Ristorante Gianni which is highly thought of by Luigi Veronelli of that guide, or La Vecchia, a slightly self-conscious country restaurant offering typical Ligurian cooking in pleasant

surroundings of terraces and flower gardens.

Local wine, the fruity and flowery Rosesse of Dolceaqua DOC, went perfectly with the robust food, which kept coming, plate after plate, taste after taste, with no menu in sight. This time, pasta stuffed with borage was a real delight, and *grano fritto* a gastronomic first for me; wheat grains which were soaked and then fried and cooked into a mash.

House grappa, poured into emptied, but still hot, coffee cups was a fragrant end to this and many other meals. The grappa came from a very large bottle stuffed with grapes, olive leaves, cherries and herbs which gave it its particular flavour.

The wines of the region, particularly Signor Lupis Vermentino and Pigato, both crisp whites, were seen at their finest with the marvellous fish dishes to be had in and around Imperia.

The highlight was a final dinner at the Lanterna Blu. Tonino, the owner and maitre d'hôtel is, like many immigrants to Liguria, from Naples. And like Naples, the cooking is very much fish-based. Lucia, his wife, cooked some spectacular pasta made with seaweed, which gave a delicate green colour and a superb, indelible flavour to accompany the freshest scampi imaginable.

Many small helpings of fishy antipasti preceded this, such as *seppie, novellini* and *moscardini*, which whetted

If you go in June, you will see oleanders such as you have never seen before, growing in every available space; strong flamboyant multi-coloured trees. How different from the spindly plant trying to survive on my waterlogged window-sill.

This western section of Liguria, the Riviera Fiemme is not for those who want the bright lights, the chic, elegant beach resorts, the glamorous hotels. But for those who want a quiet break and like poking around in odd corners away from the sea, this is as good a place as any I've been to recently. And you won't hear much English spoken either.

TRAVEL NOTES

Direct flights are not available to Liguria. Fly to Genoa or Milan, then by train or car. British Caledonian fly to Genoa. Apex return from £130. Alitalia fly to Milan. Super Apex from £130 return. Hotel Corallo offers double rooms with bath, for about £30 a night.



Carrots to cross the Atlantic

FARE DEALS

Traditionally transatlantic fares are rock bottom in winter when airlines need a carrot to entice passengers across the Atlantic, but rise with the arrival of spring. It is like any other marketplace: if the airlines can get away with selling all their seats at the higher rates, why offer discounts?

Budget travellers now paying £99 for a one-way trip to New York with the no-frills airline People Express will have to fork out £133 by the end of March. And the present £299 Apex (Advance Purchase Excursion) fare to New York offered by such airways as British Airways, TWA or Pan Am will jump to £362 from April and to £424 from June 1 to September 30.

The good news is that further price rises are unlikely as long as the pound remains around the \$1.50 mark. And the trade is expecting a bumper season for north American travel.

One destination tipped to bounce back into the budget limelight is Miami. Virgin Atlantic, Richard Branson's airline, starts regular flights from Gatwick on April 19 with a £99 one-way fare for the first month. Virgin's deal was matched by the "hometown" Eastern Airline, and no doubt the big boys like BA and Pan Am will offer competitive responses. But after May 20, Virgin Atlantic's fare rises to £199 one way and £398 return — almost the same as the major airlines' Apex rates.

A new scheduled service to look out for is Highland Express. If it is approved by the Government it will charge £99 to New York for a three-week introductory period from June 1, rising to £169 for peak season one-way flights. Highland plans to fly from London's Stansted Airport,

stopping at Birmingham and Glasgow (Prestwick) before heading west.

There are expected to be as many transatlantic flights this summer as last year. BA will continue to serve the greatest number of US gateways with the Americans offering an enormous selection of connecting flights. Gateways such as Atlanta, Dallas, Houston, Miami, Minneapolis and St Louis are more like junctions than destinations in their own right.

This "hub and spoke" concept — offering convenience, choice of destination and economy — will soon be available to travellers in the north of England. At the moment, if they want to go to areas outside the northeast of America, they have to leave from London. But from next May, American Airlines starts daily flights from Manchester to Chicago.

From there, passengers can pick up about 60 connecting flights to cities such as Denver, Detroit, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

This vastly improved range of scheduled flights has hit the charter flight business. However there will still be a selection of flights available this summer to New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Seattle. From May, look to pay around £200 to New York, £299 to Chicago and about £330 to the west coast.

The US flight specialists like American Airplan, Jetsave, Poundstretcher and Pan Am "Thriftyway" offer "added value" deals. Pay the normal Apex fare and they offer free or subsidized rail travel to London, travel to and from the airport, car rental and hotel accommodation.

Alex McWhirter

The author is Travel Editor of Business Traveller.

RES

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FRANCE TV

OUT AND ABOUT



Men of God: the Rev John Newton (left) and William Cowper (far right), their museum in Olney (top) and their hymn books

Legacy of the mad and amazing

The Cowper and Newton Museum in the quiet little town of Olney in Buckinghamshire commemorates two of the most extraordinary and dramatic lives of the 18th century.

With the poet William Cowper, the drama was internal. Outwardly he lived a dull and uneventful life, embedded in unvarying domestic routine.

Cowper was convinced that he was damned to eternal hellfire - a conviction so strong that it drove him to madness four times. He covered and gibbered, recognized nobody and tried to kill himself.

Newton was treated like a dog and nearly died

It was after the second of these collapses that he came to Olney, to a wide, square house on the market place. He was in a state of religious exaltation - which was to be short-lived - and Olney's attraction was that the evangelical preacher, the Rev John Newton, was curate there.

Newton's life story reads like something out of Defoe. Prone to religious fanaticism in his youth, he swung to violent atheism and lived the riotous life of a sailor. He fell in love with 14-year-old Miss Catlett

The home of religion, music and turmoil where the unlikeliest of friends lived in a domestic idyll

and determined to make himself marriageable, but was then press-ganged into the navy.

He jumped ship and was flogged and demoted. He left his next ship at an island off the west coast of Africa and found work with a planter whose wife took a dislike to him. He was treated badly and nearly died of fever. When he recovered, he escaped to another island and adopted the local lifestyle.

Eventually he set out for home. He was reconverted to Christianity after surviving a shipwreck and became a slave-trader. He married Miss Catlett, taught himself Latin and discovered evangelicalism. Giving up slave-trading - not because he thought it wrong, but because it distracted him from spiritual thoughts - he was ordained and became a preacher.

Cowper fell under Newton's spell, and, at his urging, the poet wrote the lovely Olney Hymns ("God moves in a mysterious way"). O for a closer walk with God". Newton himself is famous for writing "Amazing Grace", which draws many of today's visitors to Olney even though he never lived there.

which was the starting point for his most substantial work, The Task ("I sing the Sofa...").

From the hall a little hatch opens through which he let in his three hares to gambol in the evenings. They were one of the diversions by which Cowper staved off his madness. He was also devoted to his garden. The greenhouse in which he spent some of his happiest hours is no longer there but the little summerhouse in which he often sat remains.

In the house, one can see a little phial of "aperient salts", given to Cowper by Sir John Bejeman. In Cowper's bedroom there is an electrical device thought to have had therapeutic properties and a display on the theme of his famous comic poem, "John Gilpin".

As you look down from here onto the quiet market square, it is hard to believe that through this symmetrical Georgian sash on many nights Cowper saw and heard the very flames of Hell ready to devour him. Yet in the morning he would get up, pen a few perfect lines, potted in the garden, take tea, and feed the hares, Tiny, Puss and Bess...

Cowper saw and heard the very flames of Hell

The Cowper and Newton Museum, Orchard Side, Olney, Bucks (MK23 7TJ). Open Tues-Sat, Easter to Oct 31, 10am-noon; 2-5pm; Nov 1 to Easter 2-4pm. Sun, June-Sept, 2.30-5pm. Admission 50p (OAPs 40p, children 30p). The house also contains a museum of bobbin lace.

Nigel Andrew

COLLECTING

How an antiques expert knocked a fortune down to size

Shelling out for faked oyster pieces



"I done on this walnut tallboy", said the owner. "Do tell me what you think of it."

"For a start", said the valuer, "it's not walnut, but laburnum. And tallboy is a term I never use myself, because it means different things to different people. I'd prefer to describe this as a chest-on-stand."

"And I would call what you've just said a mere quibble."

"It would be, but for two facts. First, laburnum used as it is here, in the form of oyster pieces, tends to make a thing of this kind more valuable than it would be if it were veneered straightforwardly in walnut."

"Really? Then I take back 'quibble'. What's the second fact?"

"The chest itself is William-and-Mary, about 1700, but the stand is a replacement probably made in the 1930s. That subtracts from the value considerably more than the laburnum has added."

"What a jolly fellow you are. So what's it worth?"

"In auction, perhaps £1,500. If it were all original, at least three times as much."

"But how do you know the stand is a replacement? It looks all right to me."

"It was meant to. The design is correct, but whoever made it had to assist nature with art, touching up the veneers with stain to match those on the chest, which show the tendency to crack. That is to be expected on 17th-century oyster pieces. On the stand they have had to be faked. The turned legs fall miserably to display any real patina."

"Couldn't the drawer have been revamped, or whatever the trade term is for replacing worn-outer drawer-sides?"

"Re-lined. It could have

been, but in this case I don't think that explains away the other evidence. But if you're not convinced, we'll take all the drawers out of the chest, lift it off the stand and look for signs of new timber in the frame."

"Which you know we'll find. Rather a waste of your valuable time."

"Oh, I'm used to that. It often takes far longer to prove to everyone's satisfaction that a piece is made up, than to demonstrate that it's completely genuine. As valuers usually work on a percentage basis, they spend half their time on a process calculated to reduce their fees substantially."

"Poor things. The heart bleeds. But it didn't take you long to spot that there was something wrong with this?"

"It's a type that's automatically suspect because the stand is so vulnerable. The legs are often turned to a profile that makes them weak at the narrowest points. In addition, they are attacked by worms they become too frail to support the chest when the drawers are full, and eventually have to be replaced."

"Why can't they just replace the legs, and leave the rest of the stand intact?"

"That's usually what happens, and it really does need an expert to detect it. In this instance, the stand has been

renewed in its entirety, probably because the two parts of the piece became separated at some time. It's by no means unusual for a stand, when it becomes insecure, to be put away in an attic and forgotten, while the chest continues to function, flat on the floor."

"Which is exactly where you've left my hopes of getting the price of a new car for this one. I shall simply have to continue doing on it. But what, precisely, have oysters got to do with it? My husband swears by them, but I don't see them doing much for a piece of furniture."

"There was a fashion, introduced into England from Holland during the reign of Charles II, for veneering furniture with oyster pieces - slices of wood obtained by cutting across the grain of small branches to reveal the annual rings. Laburnum, elm, and olive were the favourite woods for this treatment. When the pieces were assembled, the effect is not unlike a good spread of oysters."

"You mean they didn't use real ones?"

"No. Neither did they use real herring bones for the herring bone banding that, in the early 18th century, was sometimes used to frame the oyster pieces."

Peter Philip

AUCTIONS

LAW-GIVERS AND CORSETS: The ceremonial purse of red velvet embroidered with gold thread which held the Lord Chancellor's seal, the seal of Queen Elizabeth I and the blue silk corset of a 19th-century heiress are among the highlights of the sale of fine costumes and textiles on Tues.

There should be plenty of reasonably-priced items from the wardrobe of the Scottish copper heiress, Josephine Docker Drysdale, including her wedding dress, evening gowns and bonnets. Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (01-581 7611) Viewing Mon 9am-7pm and Tues 9am-1:30pm. Sale Tues 2pm.

VICTORIAN VALUES: An album of watercolours which belonged to Queen Victoria is being sold at Sotheby's on Thurs. The most valuable is a view of Jersey by Thomas Shotter Boys estimated at £8,000-£12,000; the lowest estimate is £250-£200 on a



Prized possession: a view of Jersey by Thomas Shotter Boys, which was once owned by Queen Victoria

study of calves by an unidentified English artist. Sotheby's, 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1 (01-493 8080). Viewing Tues and Wed 9am-4:30pm. Sale Thurs 11am.

BAITING THE BULL: An Obadiah Sherratt bait-baiting group, dating from about 1830, of a tethered bull toasting a terrier and attacking another (estimate £2,500-£2,500) is included in a sale of English and continental ceramics on Wed. Also on the bovine theme, a Whitelton cow creamer and cover of around 1750, modelled as a cow suckling a calf. Phillips, Blenheim Street, London W1 (01-629 6602).

LIGHTING UP: Lightbulbs are a recent collecting enthusiasm and there are lots for sale next Sat. Most are pre-war, including a 1902 bulb with two filaments (bright and dim), which is expected to make £200.

Christie's of 23 Hursley, Winchester (0962 75411) will hold their auction at the Kew Bridge Engines Museum, Brentford, Middlesex. Viewing Sat 9.30am-1:30pm. Sale Sat 2pm.

Geraldine Norman

OUTINGS

MOTHERS DAY AT MARWELL: Children who can persuade their mothers to take them to the zoo tomorrow may be able to give them a Mothers Day present as well: the first 300 mothers to arrive will receive a free plant.

Marwell Zoological Park, Colden Common, Winchester, Hampshire (0962 74406). Tomorrow, 10am-6pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.40.

AMERICAN DOLLS: The first exhibition of its kind to be held in Britain, it covers 150 years of American doll-making and craftsmanship. The 200 dolls on display - all from the Lawrence Scripps Wilkinson Collection - range from the antique and hand-made to modern mass-produced examples.

Beithall Green Museum of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Road, London E2 (01-980 2415). Wed until June 8, Mon-Thurs and Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2.30pm-6pm. Free.

WIND & SURF '86: Eighty exhibitors including manufacturers of wind surf boards from the UK and abroad, sail and rig makers

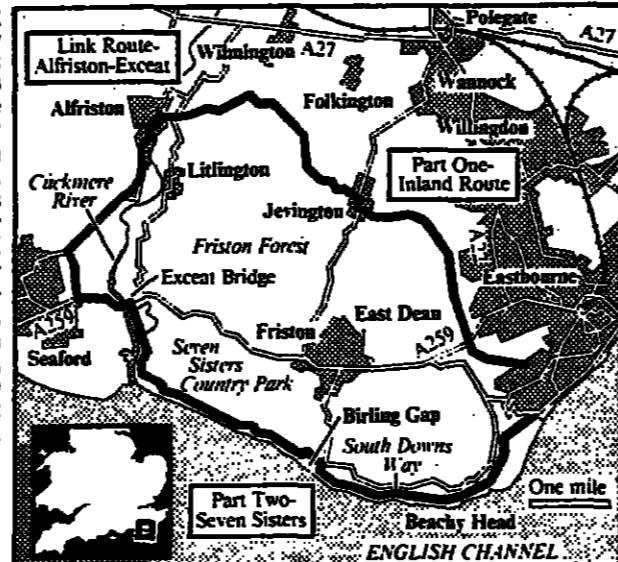
and holiday companies. Alexandra Pavilion, London N22 (01-883 6477). Thurs, Fri, 10am-7pm, March 15-16, 10am-6pm. Admission on first day for adults is £6, children £3, thereafter adults £3, children £1.50.

CARIBBEAN EYE: A new permanent exhibition which looks at the history of the Caribbean from pre-European times to the present. Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London W8 (01-603 4535). From today, Mon-Sat, 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2pm-6pm. Free.

RUSSIAN GYMNASTICS AND ACROBATIC DISPLAY: World champions Yuri Korolev, Elena Shushunova and Oksana Omelianchik are among several Olympic medal holders showing their skills on floor, pommel horse, rings, vault, parallel bars, asymmetric bars, beam and high bar. A highlight will be world champions Igor Brkanan and Ludmila Gromova in a spectacular performance of sports acrobatic tumbling. Wembley Arena, Wembley (01-902 1234). Today, tomorrow, from 2pm. Tickets £6.50, £5, £3.50.

Judy Froshaug

WEEKLY WALKS EAST SUSSEX South Downs Way Distance: 23 miles. The eastern end of the South Downs Way (SDW) emulates its northern big brother by incorporating a pincer-movement attack on its endpoint. However, this pair of alternatives may be joined into a round trip of 23 miles, or a couple of tea-milers. Eastbourne, at the end of SDW, has links with both Alfriston and Exceat Bridge, the western ends of the two tea-mile walks, and could act as base camp, and Alfriston offers accommodation. You will find the first waymark at map reference 598892. Between Eastbourne and Jevington the way is clear and, after the initial climb, easy. After Jevington (tea-shop) take the right fork with SDW at the entrance to Lullington Heath National Nature Reserve. The Long Man is passed on the way into Alfriston. To reach Exceat Bridge, follow the road past (or from) the Youth Hostel to the



Iain Liddell

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 894

Prizes of the New Collins Thesaurus will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, March 13, 1986. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, March 15, 1986.

Crossword puzzle grid with clues. ACROSS: 1 In vogue (11), 9 Referee (7), 10 Recurring period (5), 11 Seal fifth note (5), 13 Gula (4), 16 Milk solid (4), 17 Again (6), 18 Try (4), 20 Transaction (4), 21 Sad (6), 22 Way out (4), 23 Employer (4), 25 Bury (5), 29 Cancel (7), 30 Ounce (4,7). DOWN: 2 Brownish-yellow (5), 3 Duet (4), 4 Wolf (4), 5 Chief (4), 6 Lengthy reprimand (7), 7 Becket (11), 8 Fingert's cue composer (11), 12 Forward surge (6), 14 Mesh (3), 15 Rare (6), 19 Afflicted (7), 20 Society girl (3), 24 Willow (5), 25 Develop (4), 26 Female horse (4), 27 Circular band (4).

SOLUTION TO NO 893

ACROSS: 1 Dicus 5 Devour 8 Cur 9 Gatusu 10 Iavoke 11 Boat 12 Firdamp 14 Gourde 17 Mutate 19 Hawthorn 22 Care 24 Stern 25 Apiece 26 Tat 27 Es-sible 28 Exempt. DOWN: 2 Innog 3 Cheater 4 Scuffle 5 Drier 6 Vivid 7 Unkempt 13 Em-ian 16 Doh 17 Mandate 18 Tacite 20 Throb 21 Oracle 23 Recap.

The winners of Prize Concise No 888 are: J.M. Wolf, Marsh Lane, Stanmore, Middlesex; and S. E. Nichols, Lonsford Road, St. Albans, Herts.

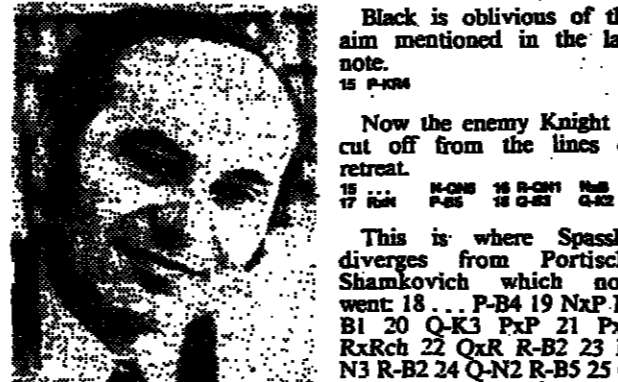
SOLUTION TO NO 888 (last Saturday's Prize Concise)

ACROSS: 1 Jumping Jack 9 Mandin 10 Nudge 11 Elk 13 Ugly 16 Anon 17 Enough 19 Pelt 20 Peer 21 Oracle 22 Onus 23 Tact 25 Peg 28 Rhino 29 Airlock 30 Shortest day. DOWN: 2 Usual 3 Pile 4 None 5 Junk 6 Cadence 7 Amour-propre 8 Lena Trotley 12 Legacy 14 Yea 15 Course 19 Loutish 20 Pet 24 Agora 25 Poor 26 Gate 27 Grit.

Name: Address:

CHESS High energy from Hungary

In three days time the GLC Chess Challenge, one of the strongest tournaments ever held in London, begins at The Great Eastern Hotel. Spectators are more than welcome to attend, and may either buy tickets at the door or from the British Chess Federation (0424-442500 or 01-892 6660).



Power play: the brilliant Hungarian Lajos Portisch

Last week, Ray Keene gave a marvellous win by one of the favourites, Boris Spassky. This time, I give an equally energetic performance by one of the most industrious and powerful of the foreign participants, the Hungarian Grandmaster Lajos Portisch.

In what follows, it is Spassky who is the victim. White: Portisch; Black: Spassky. Nimzowitsch defence, Moscow 1967.

An idea of Shamkovich's, and indeed, this game follows Fortisch-Shamkovich, Sarajvo 1963, as far as Black's 18th move, though it would seem Spassky was not aware of this since he contrived to get into great time-trouble during the course of these moves.

Black is oblivious of the aim mentioned in the last note. Now the enemy Knight is cut off from the lines of retreat. This is where Spassky diverges from Portisch-Shamkovich which now went 18... P-B4 19 NxP R-B1 20 Q-K3 PxF 21 PxB RxBch 22 QxR R-B2 23 P-N3 R-B2 24 Q-N2 R-B5 25 0-0 with a won game for White.

Threatening to sacrifice the exchange after 26... Q-KB1 and in fact if now 26 P-K6 RxN 27 PxR Q-Q3 with good counter-attacking chances for Black.

In desperate time-trouble Spassky misses the best line which was 32... P-KR4 33 QxP QxP 34 QxP QxQ 35 RxQ RxP when Black is not without counterchances. Now the game is quite hopeless for Black. Black resigns.

Harry Golombek

BRIDGE King Blackwood rules the hand

Ugly bidding can sometimes produce pretty play. Rubber Bridge. Love all. Dealer South.

W N E S. No. 34. No. 30. No. 51T. No. 48. No. 7. No. 29.

Opening lead ♠J. South's choice of opening bid was the cause of a'cattle run becoming a stampede. Reasonably, North placed South with five spades and at least four hearts. Some heavy handed use of Blackwood did the rest.

With apparently only eleven top tricks, declarer would obviously need some luck. One possible plan is to cash the ♠AK and then the ♠AKQ, discarding dummy's losing diamond. Ruff a diamond in dummy and release the ♠AQ. Cash the top clubs, discarding a heart, return to hand with a club ruff; cash the ♠K, and hope that both

the diamonds and the spades divide evenly. That breathless ride on the merry-go-round has about a 10 per cent chance. Deservingly it would not have worked on this occasion.

There is a superior line with twice the expectancy. Establish the dummy. Win the diamond, cash the ace of clubs, and ruff a club. Return to dummy with a trump, ruff a club with the ♠K, and then hope to draw the remaining trumps. Provided the spades are 3-3, you succeed where the clubs are 4-3, and retain good squeeze chances when the clubs do not break.

Rubber bridge. East-West game. Dealer South.

W N E S. No. 34. No. 30. No. 51T. No. 48. No. 7. No. 29.

Opening lead ♠J. One may criticize South's bidding, but can only admire his play. Recognizing that if he tackled trumps immedi-

ately he would require a correct guess and a favourable diamond-break declarer sought to enlist some help from the opposition. He took the ♠A, ruffed a heart, and continued with a club to the ♠9 and East's ♠Q. East switched to the ♠7, which ran to West's ♠9 and dummy's ♠A. A heart was ruffed with the nine of spades, and a second club went to West's ♠10, which East overtook with the ♠A to play another diamond. Declarer won in hand with the ♠K and got off play with a third round of the suit, to which everybody followed. That left this ending:

W N E S. No. 34. No. 30. No. 51T. No. 48. No. 7. No. 29.

West played a heart, which declarer ruffed with the ♠10. Now came the carefully preserved ♠7 and a successful finesse of dummy's ♠8. A club was ruffed with the ♠J, and declarer made the last two tricks by scoring the Ace and King of spades separately.

A fine demonstration of good card-reading and unusual technique. Jeremy Flint

SHOPPING

By Beryl Downing

DRINK

Reds that beat the Budget blues

Jane MacQuitty suggests how to save money with bin-end bargains

Robbing the Chancellor of a few pence is a deeply satisfying occupation, which is why I shall be queuing up to buy a last-minute, pre-budget bottle or two.

No one knows quite what duty increases the Chancellor will impose on the 18th, but table wine is unlikely to suffer much more than an extra 6p per bottle.

Unfortunately for the trade the same rule does not apply to sparkling wine, fortified wine or spirits and the Chancellor may try to find the revenue he needs from these three staples.

With a 10p increase on a bottle of spirits last year, and 25p increases in both 1984 and 1985, spirits could well go up by another 25p this time.

As I am not a great spirit drinker, and have already bought most of the fizz I need this year, my pre-budget purchases are likely to be more warming winter reds to see me through until the spring.

Now Antiques by Mail Order has clients from Huddersfield to Hong Kong. The quality of the furniture on offer is "upper end of the middle", mainly 1750 to 1820, with a little early Victorian.

The run-up to the budget presents a useful opportunity to clear out bin-end stock and H. Allen Smith are doing just that until March 17th.

worth sending for (24-25 Scala Street, London W1). (H. Allen Smith other London shops are at 26 Old Church Street, SW3, 56 Lamb's Conduit Street, WC1, and 29 Heath Street, NW3.)

I would be very happy to buy a bottle or two of their '78 Chateau Bel Orme Tronquoy de Lalade for £4.85, instead of £5.85, or an excellent post prandial German wine - the '83 Forster Ungeheuer Scheurebe Auslese for £4.50 instead of £5.

But the Tiffenbrunner Chardonnay looks less of a bargain at £2.95 when it is on sale at The Market for £2.99, as does the Jaboulet '83 Cotes de Rhone at £4.55. However, the '81 Cartilage Brown, priced at £5 (down from £6.70), is definitely a bargain as is the '69 Coteaux du Layon from Domaine Touchais, for the same price (down from £5.95).

Magnums of claret often represent some of the most magnificent wines that France can produce and Berry Bros & Rudd (3 St James's St, London SW1) have most helpfully put together a special reduced price, "Claret in Magnum" offer that closes on March 24. The 33 different clarets on offer are priced between £13.40 and £78 per magnum (although most are



around £20) and these prices are considerably less than the current Berry's list price. The minimum order is six magnums - but if you order 18, one of Berry's beautiful magnum claret jug decanters will be included free with the order.

Laytons are also running a last-minute pre-budget offer, details of which can be obtained from them at 20 Midland Road, London NW1. The offer is limited to cases only of seven different wines, any of which look as if they would be budget beaters. My choices however would be the '81 Delas Crozes Hermitage (£51 per case, £4.25 a bottle) plus Deutz non-vintage champagne at £118 a case or £9.83 a bottle.

Table with multiple columns of numbers, likely a stock market or commodity price list.

Artists in residence

The Ideal Home Exhibition opened this week, and like the first show in 1908, its theme is art in the home

In 1908 Frederick A. Rhead defined an Edwardian's view of art in the home: "To one class", he wrote, "it suggests restfulness, comfort, coherence, simplicity... to another class it suggests macramé work, poker work, painting on mirrors and satin cushions, or similar distressful eruptions of a perverted artistic sense."

Rhead was writing in the catalogue for the first Ideal Home Exhibition, which took Art in the Home as its theme and boasted 375 "stall-holders" of such impeccable pedigree as the Dowager Countess of Derby and the United Gentlemen's Handicraft and Home Industries. Since then the exhibition has not been without its "distressful eruptions"; this year, however, using the same theme for the first time since the original exhibition, the organizers have hit the artistic jackpot.

Not quite within your range for the spare bedroom? There is plenty of choice by less renowned artists as well for the Arts Council's aim has been to stimulate interest in a wide variety of painting and to show that it need not be expensive.

There are small oils and watercolours from £80, drawings, etchings and lithographs from £40, a considerable number of works in the middle range - £250 to £500 - and spectacular pieces between £5,000 and £9,000.

Some works demand rather more space than is found in many ideal homes. The atmospheric landscape by Christopher Lebrun that greets you in the pavilion's entrance would

overpower the average living room, but it certainly makes an impact.

"We wanted the exhibition to be quite dramatic and the paintings to be strong enough to make a statement to people who are moving through the exhibition quite quickly," says Caroline Collier, who has organized the Arts Council selection.

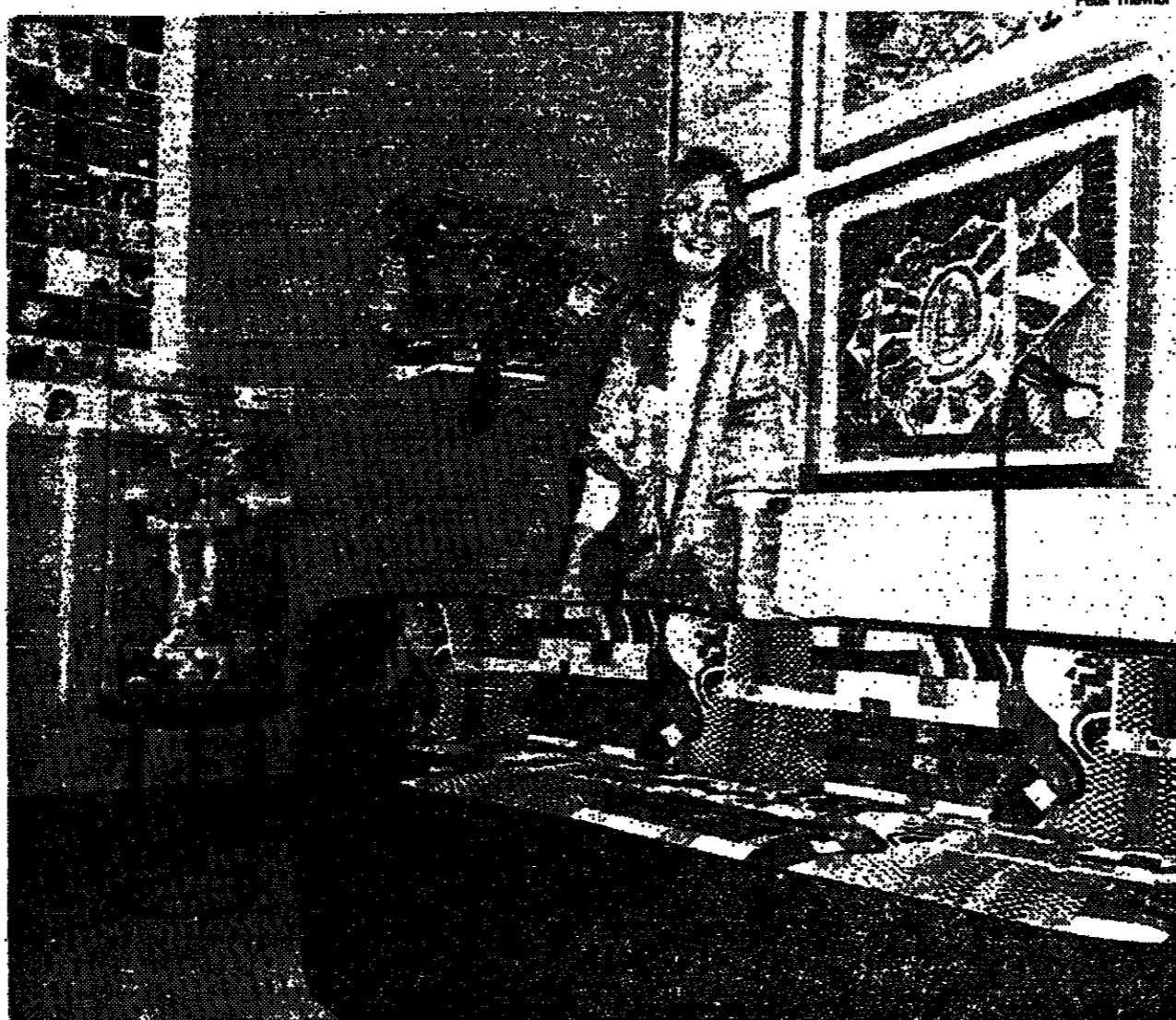
"The fact that we have notional room settings instead of a gallery is also unusual, so obviously the colours have had to work, too. There is nothing wrong with choosing a painting as decor, although in an ideal world it might be nicer to redecorate a room to suit a painting.

"Because art can be decorative it is not always seen as something with more to offer - feeling or thought, for instance. If you have a work which does have that little bit more it is a way of making yourself different from everybody else.

"We are showing a very small sample - not a definitive choice but simply a starting point. Buying art should be a pleasure and we hope that as a result of our limited selection people will want to go to other exhibitions."

She feels people are suspicious of contemporary art. "The 1960s and 1970s, when art became difficult to understand, have a lot to answer for." She has chosen works with an emphasis on the figurative rather than the abstract, images that will be appreciated by the 850,000 visitors who window shop at the exhibition each year.

Window shopping is all they can do in the Living Art pavilion, for none of the work is for sale on the spot - they are all borrowed from the artists, from dealers or come from the Arts Council's own collection. If you are interested in a particular work or style



Smart art: Caroline Collier in the Living Art display, with (left) painted wood sculpture by Sam Smith, wall sculpture by Neil Jeffries and (right) David Hockney's Views of Hotel Well from his own collection

there is a guide which lists addresses of the artists or dealers with a note of the prices you may expect to pay.

The background to the art exhibition, supplied by Liberty, includes fabrics, wallpapers and borders and a range of Liberty Guild furniture inspired by the Arts and Crafts movement with which the company has always had strong links.

Some of the pieces are exact reproductions of late 19th-century pieces in Liberty's collection, others are modern designs by Ron Carter strongly influenced by Arts and Crafts. All are available to order.

The Ideal Home Exhibition is at Earl's Court, London SW5. Open daily, 10am-8pm including Sundays and bank holidays until March 31. Admission: £3.50 adults (£2.80 in advance), £2 children and pensioners (£1.30 in advance).

GOOD BUYS

Gadgetmania sets in on the second floor of the exhibition - you need to wear blinkers if you are to avoid temptation by some bright ideas that you never knew you needed. Here is a selection of some of the best.

● Easy touch: For those with arthritic fingers who find light switches difficult, a new range of lamps responds to the lightest touch. They work on a dimmer principle; the light will intensify as long as your hand stays on the white or brown ceramic base. The Touch Light, with shade, is £49.95 (£2.50 p&p). By the same company is the wall-mounted Welcome Light for outdoor use. In cream or white, it lights automatically as someone approaches. It also costs £49.95 (£1.50 p&p). Stand 44. Both are available

from Acma (UK) Limited, The Square, Petersfield, Hampshire (0730 66221).

● Shine on: A new silver polish actually has the effect of replating while you polish because, according to says its creator Lawrence Perovetz, it contains silver. I saw him apply it to a Victorian silver basket with all the copper showing through the plate and it was "replated" in seconds. It won't get rid of corrosion, but instead of removing plate, as polishing does over the years, it puts the silver coating back - and so it should at £9.95 for a 75ml bottle. The antique trade has been using it since last October and this is its first retail appearance. Stand 425. Silver Solution is also available by post (75p p&p) from The Cutlery Shop, 14 Tooks Court, Curator Street, London EC4 (01-404 4557).

● Keeping track: A five-in-one electrical socket track allows several appliances to be used simultaneously without using adaptors. The Electrak is about 2ft long, has child-proof sockets and can be wired easily from an ordinary three-pin power point. Excellent for kitchen, workshop or garage. £24.95 for the track with two plugs, extra plugs £1.70 each on Stand 424. The track will be available in the shops shortly, but can be obtained for an extra £1.25 p&p from Electrak, 45 High Street, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey (01-541 4545).

● In the clear: The Brita water filter makes even London water taste sparklingly fresh by removing chlorine and other nastiness. Excellent for all hard water areas. It is on Stand 401 at a special exhibition price of £9.50 with three cartridges for £5 (Shop prices £10.45 and £2.10 per cartridge).

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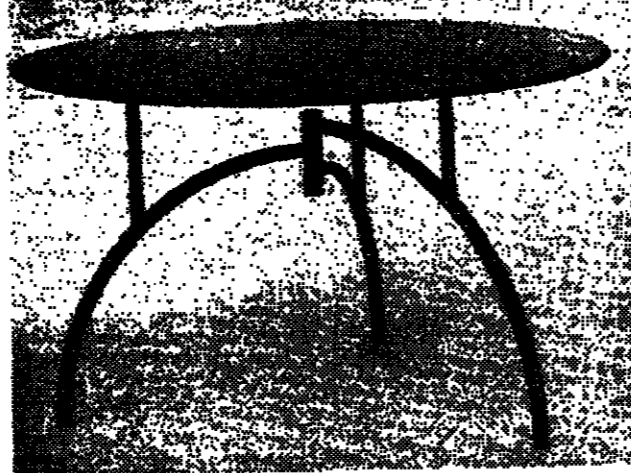
DESIGN FILE

Dramatic modern furniture by a designer whose devotees include President Mitterrand will be shown for the first time in London on Wednesday.

Mary Fox Linton, the interior designer, is presenting a collection of tables and chairs by Philippe Starck. Hailed in France as one of the top designers of the 80s, his commissions have included President Mitterrand's apartment in the Elysee Palace and the furniture for the Café Costes in Les Halles, Paris, where his black tubular chairs have won public attention and acclaim. The Costes chair is on

show in London and is available at £248.40. It is part of the collection which Starck calls Uluk after a science fiction book by Philip K. Dick.

His style is simple and functional, but he tries to remove any preconceptions about the way furniture should look. His Von Voegelwang chair, for instance, simply raises for support on a curved tube (£98.90); his Tippy Jackson table (£248.40) has legs with the curved line of a leaping animal, his Sarapis stool has an iron netting seat and a slender column of metal arching from beneath it to form the back (£76.25). They will be on show at Mary Fox Linton, 249 Fulham Road, London SW3 (01-351 0273) until March 22.



Lean lines: Philippe Starck's Tippy Jackson table (£248.40). His work is on show in London this week

SHOPFRONT

If you are searching for a 14th-century oak cooler, a George III wine coffer, a cast-iron art nouveau umbrella stand, there is no longer any need to trek to several specialist dealers - you can now buy antiques by mail order.

John Morris has had an antique shop in Tetbury, Gloucestershire, since 1972. When customers asked him to look for specific antique pieces he started taking pictures of possible pieces and sending them to the clients, who could then decide whether to view. This service became so popular that it was extended to send whole collections of

pictures and the obvious development was to mail the furniture as well as the photographs.

Now Antiques by Mail Order has clients from Huddersfield to Hong Kong. The quality of the furniture on offer is "upper end of the middle", mainly 1750 to 1820, with a little early Victorian. The present selection includes a George III walnut tallboy with original brass handles and brass escutcheons for £2,500, and a Sheraton book carrier circa 1790-1800 at £450. For a free copy of the current issue, contact John Morris, Gastrell House, 33 Long Street, Tetbury, Gloucestershire (0683 52228). There is a subscription fee of £25 for 10 mailings.

Advertisement for Able Labels, offering name labels for £3.25 and £4.00.

Advertisement for Agriframes Fruit Cages, offering cages for £3.50.

IN THE GARDEN

Sowing seeds of indoor colour

An inexpensive way of providing indoor colour is to grow house plants from seed. Coleus - the flame nettle - is one of the easiest as one packet of seed will produce enough pot plants for yourself and your neighbours as well as for bedding out.



Hot favorite: Coleus

Look at Scarlet Poncho and Milky Way from Suttons, which have attractive, highly coloured leaves. The flowers should be pinched out as soon as they are visible.

Busy Lizzies - Impatiens - are good bedding plants and ideal house plants. Always use a good compost mixture such as Fisons Levington Compost and make sure the resulting plants are all of the same standard. The F1 hybrids are the ones to go for. The seed may be more expensive but

the plant quality is superb. Try Novette Mixed and Futura, which has big flowers. The exotic-looking gloxinias flower late in the year if the seed is sown now. Although

not the easiest to grow, they can become good plants with care. The flowers are large and highly coloured and shaped like an open-ended trumpet. The foliage, which is large and brittle, must be handled with care. They are tender plants and, ideally, the temperature should not drop below about 55F. Suttons Super Perfection Mixed are F1s and are strong and vigorous. Two of the nicest spring flowering plants are the primrose and polyanthus; they can be sown now to flower next spring. Try Polyanthus Lemon Punch, an F1 and an ideal plant which can also be put into beds outside. A variety called Spring Promise F1 has a wide range of colour and looks lovely in 4 or 5in pots.

Ashley Stephenson

QUESTION TIME

I planted the stone of an avocado in a pot 10 years ago and it is now about 6ft tall. Can I plant it in the garden? The avocado pear (Persea gratissima) is generally found in the South America so you cannot plant it out in your garden. Avocados make good foliage house plants, but prune them in the early stages to make them bushy. They will accept cold rooms if they are kept on the dry side.

Peaches flower early in the season and sometimes need human help as insects are not always plentiful. A rabbit's foot or a paint brush dabbed from flower to flower is a good aid. Protect the tree from strong cold winds when it is in flower.

My bay tree was grown from a sucker off an established plant. Recently reported, it is showing distress signals with the leaves turning yellow. The bay tree is resilient and does not usually show signs of distress. In a hard winter it needs protection from cold east or north winds and should be in well-drained soil. Repotting may have affected its growth but I suspect it needs some feeding. A large plant in a relatively small pot should be fed regularly. Top dress the tree with well-rotted farmyard manure; place as much as possible into the top of the container and allow to rot

THE TIMES WOOL SWEATERS

These high quality fine-knit V-neck sweaters have the unmistakable softness of pure wool and are stylishly designed to look good on both men and women. The V-neck is a classic practical style, and the easy-fit raglan shoulders and ribbed neck cuffs and hem make these sweaters both smart and very comfortable. Team them with casual clothing for everyday leisure wear or with tailored skirts and trousers for more formal occasions. Scottish-made from 100% Botany wool, they can be hand-washed or dry-cleaned, returning to their silky softness every time.



All prices are inclusive of post and packing. Please allow up to 21 days for delivery. If you are not satisfied we will refund your money without question.

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Paperbacks

REVIEW

Ripping yarns from the green baize

Strange how the small province of Ulster turns out world champions. First there was George Best, greatest of all post-war British soccer players...

Snookered by Donald Treford (Faber, £4.95)

Innocent readers may be surprised to learn that snooker is a favourite game of journalists. The popular image of Fleet Street hacks would suggest that they are never sober long enough to distinguish the colours...

into trouble with the gaming authorities, the new proprietors of the Clermont Club in Berkeley Square slung all the backgammon players out into the street. One of their number found a snooker club off Baker Street and a perfect marriage was arranged...



Sport of kings: Louis XIV of France playing a game of billiards in 1694. Three hundred years later, it is no longer the exclusive set who call all the shots...

big enough to take a full-size table. The best snooker story of all is recorded by Anthony Lejeune, writing about the Travellers' Club in Pall Mall. A member committed suicide by shooting himself in the snooker room. It was said in his defence that he had lived a long while in Japan and acquired 'a characteristic indifference to life'.

chairman, a certain Colonel Baring, took a stern view: 'I'll take damn good care he never gets into any other club I have anything to do with.' Oh dear, I've nearly run out of space and haven't said anything about Donald Treford's book, so let me repeat one story from it...

asked if she minded if he smoked. She noticed he had a huge wad of fivers in his back pocket. When she arrived home she started everyone with the announcement: 'I've just met a snooker player on the train with the most beautiful manners. His name was Higgins. Have you heard of him?' Treford's book is a lovely read.

John Graham

Love out on a limb

Passion Fruit: Romantic Fiction With a Twist edited by Jeanette Winterston (Pandora, £3.95)

I cannot remember having read more disagreeable book. It consists of 12 romantic stories from 12 women, including Fay Weldon, Sara Maitland and Angela Carter, to name the most instantly recognizable of these American and British writers.

except that the story-teller meets her true love while they are both at Broadmoor.

He is a transvestite teacher, shipped by his little girl pupils; she, having discovered that her husband is her mother's lover and that they are expecting a child, sets fire to her office. No joy, no happiness, no cloud nine—on and on it drearily goes. Angela Carter has a rather pleasant first-person reminiscence called 'The Quilt Maker', concentrating on an old lady and her cat living in the basement next door.

Michelle Wandor's 'Some of My Best Friends' starts out quite amusingly, with a lesbian and a gay man organizing a gay festival and falling in love with each other in a disgust-



Cheerful: Angela Carter

ingly normal way, causing immense outrage among the gay community which regards them both as traitors.

But it is tiresomely written in lower case. The reason is revealed in the 'twist' in that the bomb which killed her lover also tore off her left arm—the one that holds the shift key down.

Losing an arm is clearly the fashionable thing to have happen to you this year.

Philippa Toomey

Feminist's high view of the word

Women Writing About Men by Jane Miller (Virago, £5.50)

order to be heard in a male-orientated society. We should see them as bilingual. The chapters on Austen, Eliot and the Brontës are sympathetic and there is no attempt to foist anachronistic ideologies on them. But as far as contemporary writing is concerned Miller concentrates on women who are real, rather than metaphorical, outsiders.

Writers like the Creole Jean Rhys and former Rhodesian Doris Lessing naturally present an outsider's view of our society. This entirely defies her argument that women are outsiders in their own society just at the moment in the development of literature when women are consciously beginning to exploit this.

Miller is right that people need to be jolted into awareness of their assumptions and repressions, but often the way

she attempts to achieve it becomes a form of female chauvinism: 'Imagine. A young mother is sucking her son. As he wriggles from her into sudden, heavy sleep, milk spurts from her breast and on to the pages of Volume VII of Proust's A la Recherche de Temps Perdus...'.

This is meant to demonstrate what it means to be a woman reader but only succeeds in damaging her credibility as well as her Proust. There are more serious examples of this female chauvinism: several of the authors quoted insist that men can never understand women's language fully but there is little suggestion that women fail to understand men's. If we are bilingual, men can learn to be so too. It is not only women who feel the inadequacy of language; it has been a universal theme in literature throughout the 20th century.

Annabel Edwards

Tortured talent at the typewriter

FICTION

The Anatomy Lesson by Philip Roth (Penguin, £3.95)

Readers of Roth will know what to expect. Zuckerman, the hero, is tormented by his literary talent. Women gravitate to him irresistibly, although by now he has lost most of his hair and teeth. Sex and the Jewish family rank closely with self in terms of cliff-hanging importance.

Zuckerman is mysteriously ill in The Anatomy Lesson, reduced to inertia on his back. In this position writing is especially problematic. Women continue to supply sex and food, but booze and painkillers drag him into a despairing fog. He creates the new fictive persona for himself of pornographer—suitable for one who peeps voyeuristically at life as material for his books. The ensuing fiasco is black and comic. His mother has died and the laughter gets darker: behind the mirth is a bleak destination that rings true.

The Tiger by Lisa St Aubin de Teran (Penguin, £3.95)

Lisa St Aubin de Teran writes again about a dusty landscape in South America, where people have names like El Patron and impossible, strange things happen. Lucien, the hero, is brought up by the terrifying Misia Schmutter, a grandmother who possesses his soul. She continues to dominate him after death, even to disapprove of his girlfriends. Quite soon the reader stops believing. This is magic realism ad absurdum, style without content.

For the style lays spurious claim to the depth and authenticity of myth. Portentous and exaggerated, it is so badly derivative that it approaches self-parody. The reader feels uneasy that the author has found a formula: South America, land of fantastic extrem-

ity, the setting that permits instant myth-making. The characters are improbable, the peasants a homogenous mass, doing folksy primitive things, as suits the narrative. Lucien's ancestor is such a powerful villain that no bandits attack him because they see murder in his eye. Lucien grows up in a 'landscape of fear'. Horror and profundity are not the same thing, nor are strange events always interesting.

The Nature of Passion by Ruth Praver Jhabvala (Penguin, £2.95)

Lalaji is a millionaire Indian contractor and, with money, things have changed. Secretly he prefers the old style of life, keeping cash in a trunk, sleeping outside. 'Still, one had to keep up with one's money. A bedroom suite was a social necessity.'

Lalaji's children reject the



Tolerant wit: Jhabvala

old customs for the new European ways: college, short hair, motor cars. Nimmi, Lalaji's beautiful daughter, is kissed under the moon by her new fashionable boyfriend. Her impulse is to laugh; but when later she tells her girlfriend it seems poetic and romantic.

In The Nature of Passion truth never conforms to cliché; and in scenes of magnificent quiet comedy the author shows us the new fashions as new orthodoxies, with rules as strict as the old.

She observes the Indian social relations with great and tolerant wit. She sees clearly, records without euphemism and never tells the reader what to think. The Nature of Passion is a delight.

Kathy O'Shaughnessy

THE WEEK AHEAD

Art and terror in the dream factory

Charles Laughton was one of the cinema's most forceful actors, who created a splendid gallery of larger-than-life performances. But he will be remembered also for the one film he made from behind the camera. The Night of the Hunter, which he directed in 1955, is on BBC2 on Friday (11.45pm-1.20am).

FILMS ON TV

cause was taken up by discerning critics, and by film societies and art houses, and it has come to take its place among the handful of cinema classics. Laughton based his film on a novel by Davis Grubb about a psychopathic backwoods preacher who marries and murders rich widows for their money, which he devotes to 'the work of the Lord'.

Peter Waymark on a classic portrayal of the conflict between good and evil

much further than that and what emerges is an extraordinary richness and mythic power with evil finally conquered by the forces of light. Laughton made a careful choice of collaborators and drew outstanding contributions from each of them. The screenplay was by James Agee, one of America's most perceptive film critics, and the striking camera work came from Stanley Cortez, who worked with Orson Welles on The Magnificent Ambersons.

Stimulating the brain

new version of Webster's classic revenge play. The White Devil (Radio 3, tomorrow, 7.15-9.15pm). It could be just the thing for a struggling GCE student. Gerald Murphy and Susan Fleetwood play the leading protagonists in this dark tale of murder and neurosis. Among the week's documentaries are Left, Right and Centre (Radio 3, tomorrow, 5.15-6pm), a series of three programmes by Richard Mayne analysing the main political groupings in France as that country prepares to go to the polls. Also tomorrow, File on Freud (Radio 4, 10.15-11pm) is a reassessment of the father of psychoanalysis.

tim and her demise is as startling as anything in the film. The making of The Night of the Hunter brought out Laughton's best qualities - his intensity of feeling, his sense of drama and atmosphere - and his worst. His contempt for money meant that the project was soon going well over budget, while his ruthless treatment of those around him is said to have hastened James Agee's early death. Despite the box-office failure of The Night of the Hunter, Laughton was offered another directing assignment, The Naked and the Dead.



Frightening presence: Robert Mitchum as Harry Powell, the murderous preacher in The Night of the Hunter

RECOMMENDED

- Twelve Angry Men (1957): Persuasive jury-room drama with Henry Fonda as the lone dissenter trying to persuade his colleagues of an alleged murderer's innocence (BBC2, today, 2-3.30pm). Pymalion (1938): Excellent screen adaptation of Shaw's play, with Leslie Howard as Higgins, Wendy Hiller as Eliza and Wilfrid Lawson as Docility (Channel 4, today, 3-4.50pm). Rififi (1954): Jules Dassin's famous thriller about a Paris jewel robbery, which occupies half an hour of screen time entirely without dialogue or music (BBC2, tomorrow, 3-4.55pm). The Pumpkin Eater (1964): James Mason and Anne Bancroft as the partners in a rocky marriage; from Penelope Mortimer's novel, scripted by Harold Pinter (Channel 4, tomorrow, 10.15pm-12.15am).

Publishers in conflict

Anyone setting out to write a radio comedy series these days must feel the weight of a glorious tradition and know that comparisons will inevitably be made with Hancock's Half Hour or The Goon Show or Round the Horne. Give or take a personal favourite. Too often in the past few years radio has solved the dilemma the easy way by recycling sitcoms already tried and tested on television. But originals do keep cropping up. The latest is Andrew Palmer's Take Me To Your Reader, which starts today on Radio 4 (12.37-12.55pm). Set in the world of publishing, it revolves round the constant battle to resolve the inherent conflict between producing literature and making money. The two positions are represented by idealistic Colin (Tim Brooke-Taylor) and mercenary boss (Glyn Houston). The first episode charts the tussle between two publishers for the services of a popular author of children's stories, who has come to despise his craft and would rather write poetry. Crisply plotted, with some sharp lines and an echo of the bogus intellectuality of

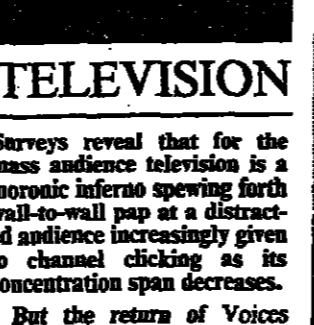


Maestro of sharp-edged farce: Dario Fo

A drama highlight of the week is the first performance in Britain of Archangels Don't Play Pinball (Radio 3, Wed, 7.30-9pm) by the Italian maestro of sharp-edged farce, Dario Fo. The target is bureaucracy, its excesses and its often crazy logic. Jimmy Chisbolm plays the central character, who rejoices in the name of Sunny Weather, while most of the other actors not only take several roles, but provide the necessary sound effects - cars, traffic, dogs, cats, filing cabinets and clocks. The music is written and performed by a combo not often heard on Radio 3. Harvey and the Wallbangers. James Runcie, adaptor of Archangels, is also responsible, with Robert Sandall, for a

TELEVISION

Surveys reveal that for the mass audience television is a morose inferno spewing forth wall-to-wall pap at a distracted audience increasingly given to channel clicking as its concentration span decreases. But the return of Voices (Channel 4, Thurs, 11-11.55pm), an attempt to stretch the intellectual parameters of television in a way that is possible on radio, demonstrates the virtual impossibility of conveying abstract ideas to an attentive audience. The articulate novelists Martin Amis and Saeel Bellow, irritatingly referred by Michael Ignatieff, produce informed and stimulating dialogue but with the forum being an uninspired three-chair set with a dim-coloured background attention increasingly focuses on Amis's intense manipulation of his cigarettes. The mind wanders throughout That Uncertain Feeling (BBC2, Wed, 9.25-10.15pm), a four-part dramatization of Kingsley Amis's comedy of gauche sexuality, working-class inhibitions and provincial aspirations played out behind and in front of a small town Welsh library counter. The proceedings are dead slow, but it is billed as a classic



Victim: Warren Clarke in The Russian Soldier

comedy, so perhaps we should take it seriously. The toughest moral debate is to be found in The Russian Soldier (BBC2, tomorrow, 10.10-11.35pm), an impassioned cry against the retaliatory arms race from the mouth of an innocent victim, a West Country farmer driven to doubt patriotism as his animals suffer accidental biological weapons testing. How far do democratic ends justify dictatorial means and is the state justified in developing a lethal arsenal just because the other side is doing so? A brooding and deeply disturbing film directed by Gavin Millar and written by Brian Pheasant, The Russian Soldier milks the growing suspicion about the power and ethics of the state's deeply flawed human custodians. Warren Clarke stars as the



Bob Williams

Bob Williams

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Table with multiple columns and rows of numbers, likely a stock market or financial index table.

THE WEEK AHEAD



FILMS TIMEWATCH: Michael Frayn makes his cinema debut with Clockwise (PG), a boisterous farce starring John Cleese as a punctilious headmaster trying to reach a conference on time. Warner West End (01-439 0791) from Friday.



DANCE FIRST STEPS: Michael Clark, the provocative and talented young dancer/choreographer, premieres his latest work with London Festival Ballet. Drop your pearls and hog it girls is set to music by the punk band The Fall. Theatre Royal, Bath (0225-65065), Thursday.



BOOKS QUEEN MUM: Penelope Mortimer has written a warts-and-all biography of the Queen Mother which tries to go behind the public facade and may startle those expecting the usual anodyne royal portrait. Queen Elizabeth is published by Viking on Thursday at £12.95.



CONCERTS HAPPY RETURNS: Hans Werner Henze conducts the first complete London performance of his Elegy For Young Lovers. The concert is an early celebration of his 60th birthday, which falls on July 1. Queen Elizabeth Hall (01-928 3191), Wednesday, 7pm.



OPERA AFTER VERDI: Wilhelmina Fernandez, who was made famous by her performance in the title role of the cult film Diva, sings her first Aida in Britain in Philip Prowse's new production for Opera North. Grand Theatre, Leeds (0532-459351), from Tuesday.



THEATRE BLADE RUNNER: Tim Curry plays Mack the Knife in a new National Theatre production of The Threepenny Opera by Brecht and Weill. Salford Theatre, Salford (01-928 2252), from Thursday.

ARTS DIARY

Sounds spooky

The 900th corpse should just about have been cleared away from the premises by the time Dame Janet Baker gets up to sing at the Spitalfields Music Festival in May. At present Christ Church, Spitalfields is having bodies removed wholesale from the crypt so that the annual music festival can extend its facilities. As part of the church's £1.5 million restoration programme the crypt will become a dressing-room.

The bones are enjoying a belated outing courtesy of the Wellcome and Nuffield foundations, which will perform various tests on them before they are returned to a decent burial place in the Spitalfields churchyard some time next year. Fortunately Janet Baker is no great believer in spookies: the skeletons could still be being hauled away rattling, as she makes her debut there.

Lost love

The story behind David Putnam's his latest film, Mr Love, is a one of triumph over adversity. Its creator, writer Ken Eastaugh, came to know Putnam after sending him a letter a couple of years ago. "I waited for a decent interval", recalls Eastaugh, "then I politely wrote to David asking him what he thought. He'd never seen it and I hadn't even got a copy". An embarrassed Putnam asked Eastaugh if he could rewrite the original or come up with something new. Mr Love was the result. Now Eastaugh puts a sheet of carbon paper in his typewriter, just in case.

A remarkable number of Londoners still remember Yoko Ono as a promising conceptual artist whose progress was only hampered by her involvement with John Lennon. On her return to Britain in a fortnight's time many will be asking themselves what they ever saw in a £100 apple or an hour spent languishing inside a bag. Far from the heady days when she would turn concepts inside out at the Indica Gallery, she is fronting an extremely conventional rock'n'roll band and singing predictable songs about peace.

Pinter's party

Harold Pinter is to star as Goldberg in a new version of his play The Birthday Party for BBC television. Currently in rehearsal, the piece also includes Colin Blakely, Julie Walters, Kenneth Cranham and Joan Plowright and promises to be an exact mirror of the 1960 original. Producer Rosemary Hills tells me: "If the original instructions said three dots for a pause then three dots it is, not two".

Brando blitz

Frantic rewrites are going on at United British Artists (UBA), the film conglomerate formed by such stars as Glenn Jackson and Alan Bates, which hopes to sign Marlon Brando for its biggest project yet. Brando, who has not made a film for five years, has vetoed one script but UBA director Richard Johnson is hopeful. "There are some problems but we will have them ironed out soon", he says, "and we are looking forward to working with him". The subject and title of the film are a closely-guarded secret.

When it's any one for Denis



Those who endured Dead Head, the lascivious television mystery series, will need no introduction to Denis Lawson's body. They will know that it is quite short, although not fat, and surmounted by a squarish, thin-tipped face which ranted a lot in bellcose cockney.

If they have read Kingsley Amis's That Uncertain Feeling and switch on to the television adaptation next Wednesday, they may be surprised to see Lawson cast as the librarian hero John Aneurin Lewis, described by the author as the possessor of a "long thin body" and "round and rubicund" face. Denis Lawson, as he likes to say himself, is a versatile man.

Throughout his 18-year acting career he has tried to prove that he can not only act, but improvise, mime, tap dance and even bark - in one early fringe production he was cast as a dog.

It was not, however, until last week, when he opened in the new Andrew Lloyd Webber production, Lend Me A Tenor, that audiences saw Lawson singing operatic arias. "In a sense I've almost been hoist by my own petard", he said, bolting down sandwiches between rehearsals. "People think I can do anything. When I said I'd never done Welsh, they retorted 'Oh, don't be silly, I had to work for weeks on that Welsh sound'."

Denis Lawson's own sound is muted Scots, legacy of an upbringing in Crieff, Perthshire, where he decided to go on stage at the age of five. The same year he starred in Rumpelstiltskin at his infant school, where a low budget ruled out the traditional exit through the floor boards. "I had to stamp my foot and walk off - I remember doing that, and getting a huge laugh, and suddenly realizing I could be funny."

Nothing is too tall an order for actor Denis Lawson - as he proves again on TV next week

By the time he had got in - on his second attempt - to Glasgow's drama school, Lawson's ambitions had matured. He would be an actor, he would also be very rich and famous by the age of 24. That landmark came and went. "I thought, damn, I haven't done it." Fourteen years later he can laugh at that.

He spent his twenties ploughing through repertory and fringe productions, in which he worked with Lindsay Kemp, Steven Berkoff, Howard Brenton, David Edgar and many other more conventional directors. "I made a kind of naive decision - although it turned out to be very effective - that in a profession which was overcrowded and very difficult, you'd have a much better chance of staying in work if you could do everything."

Even after he broke into television, with a dynamic new agent, it was some time before he was proved right - partly he thinks, because of a conflicting sub-strategy: "My very first plan of attack was not to be a Scottish actor, and that was quite tough and difficult, because there were periods when I was not working in London, and I was offered work in Scotland, and just did not do it."

He spent his spare time practising in London dance studios, certain that a facility for musical comedy would be the answer. "It seemed to me that I had a very good chance of cracking it in that area. I felt not many actors in this country could deal with being a good musical performer."

On this bar, and I just had a kind of funny flash in my head. I knew I was getting ready for something." Not long afterwards, Lawson was offered the lead in a production of Pal Joey which transferred to the West End. It was his watershed.

That was six years ago. Since then Lawson's skill in singing, dance and burlesque has brought him the lead in the 1920s musical Mr Cinders, and now Lend Me A Tenor. He became confident enough to turn down another play from the RSC. But he did accept, of all things, the part of a Scot - the wily landlord in the film Local Hero. With his recent series of big television parts, his strategy appears to have paid off handsomely.

There seems to be a tendency for him to be cast as a winsome, put-upon underdog; a little man caught up in the plots and whims of others. Lawson, who oozes urbanity and careful planning, considers this may have something to do with a relatively new habit of rooting his characters in himself.

"I spent years stretching myself every way I could think of, mentally and physically, but what's most effective now is a kind of honest performance that's close to you. Changing your voice and the way you move is just a trick."

Another thread in Lawson's determination to inform all his parts with the political views he acquired after reading Brave New World and working on the fringe in his early twenties. "I've always been a socialist, and it hasn't been shaken as I've become more successful, or reached a kind of age where people reevaluate, and might move to the right a bit. I don't think I've done that."

As if to prove the point, he reached for the plate of sandwiches which he had already ransacked for those containing smoked salmon. Covering the plate with a lace doily, he carried it out of the Globe Theatre and proceeded briskly up Shaftesbury Avenue.

Catherine Bennett That Uncertain Feeling is on BBC2 on Wednesday, 9.25-10.15pm.

THE TIMES CHOICE

CONCERTS

FRANCK/FAURE: Carlo Maria Giulini conducts the Philharmonia Orchestra in Franck's Symphony, then the Philharmonia Choir joins in for Faure's Requiem. Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191), credit cards 01-928 8800, Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

MATA/LSO: Gluck's Overture Iphigenie en Aulide begins this concert by Eduardo Mata and the LSO, which also includes the Mussorgsky-Ravel Pictures at an Exhibition. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-628 8795, credit cards 01-638 8891), Tues, 7.45pm.

DEBUSSY FIRST: Debussy's Khamma: Legende Danse gets its UK premiere at the LPO under James Conlon. Royal Festival Hall, Wed, 7.30pm.

FROM HUNGARY: The Hungarian State Symphony Orchestra in Wagner's Overture Die Meistersinger, Bartok's Violin Concerto No 2 (soloist Vilmos Szabadi), Brahms's Symphony No 1. Barbican Centre, Wed, 7.45pm.

GAVRILOV: The outstanding Andrei Gavrilov solos in Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No 2 with the RPO. Royal Festival Hall, Thurs, 7.30pm.

SHOSTAKOVICH CONTINUES: The Borodin Quartet's complete series of Shostakovich string quartets has now got to Quartets Nos 6-8. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191, credit cards 01-928 8800).

THEATRE

IN PREVIEW

AFTER AIDA: How librettist Arrigo Boito persuaded Verdi to end his long silence and compose such late masterpieces as Otello and Falstaff, Julian Mitchell's new play, directed by Howard Davis, with Ian Charleson and Gemma Jones. Old Vic (01-928 7616). Previews from Tues. Opens Mar 19.

THE FUTURISTS: Dusty Hughes's play, set in a basement club in Russia, 1921. Richard Eyre directs Peter Blythe, Charlotte

Cornwell (above), Daniel Day-Lewis, Jack Shepherd. Cotswold (01-928 2282). Previews today, Mon-Fri, Mar 15. Opens Mar 17.

ON TOUR: London Contemporary Dance Theatre is at Theatre Royal, Plymouth (0752-369595) tonight with a programme including Robert Cohan's latest work. Northern Ballet Theatre gives The Nutcracker twice today at the Grand Theatre, Swansea (0792 471715) and Tues-March 15 at the Grand Theatre, Blackpool (0253 28372).

PHOTOGRAPHY THE LIVING BODY: A visually stunning exploration of the human body by a host of photographers, including Snowdon, Lichfield, Walter Nurnberg, Patrick Eger and David Redfern. Science Museum, London SW7 (01-589 3456).

IMPRESSIONS IN ISRAEL: Snowdon and Lichfield again (portraits and landscapes conducted by) but this time joined by wildlife photographer Eric Hoskings. Exhibition Gallery, Selfridges, Oxford Street, London W1 (01-629 1234).

APRIL AT THE BARBICAN: Booking open for performances of Howard Blake's The Snowman, Verdi's Requiem by Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, St George's Day Concert, and Jazz in April evening with London Ragtime Orchestra. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-638 8891 or 01-628 8795).

WELSH NATIONAL OPERA: Booking open for spring tour, with new productions of Otello, Vesivka and The Barber of Seville.

FILMS

YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES (PG): Another display of comic-book japes and sumptuous special effects from Steven Spielberg, with Nicholas Rowe and Alan Cox as a teenage Holmes and Watson, scaling the mystery of the "pyramid of fear". Directed by Barry Levinson. Plaza (01-437 1234). From Fri.

JAGGED EDGE (18): Polished thriller with much courtroom tension. Glenn

LIVERPOOL: Shirley Valentini, Korean Karshaw, of Granada TV's Alibi Market, in Willy Russell's latest show. Everyman (051 709 4776). Opens Thurs.

SHEFFIELD: Carmen Jones: European premiere of the stage musical based on Prosper Merimee's Carmen. Crucible (0742 79922). Public dress rehearsals Thurs and Fri matinee. Opens Fri eve.

DANCE

LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET: The company splits itself in two this week to appear in different cities. One team presents Coppelia today at the Theatre Royal, Nottingham (0602 42328) and Mon-March 15 at the Apollo, Oxford (0865 44544), where Rudolf Nureyev appears as guest on Thurs, Fri. The smaller team, under the title LFB2, goes to the Theatre Royal, Bath (0225 65065) with two programmes. Mon-Wed they include Paul Taylor's sunny Aurora, the classic Dances from Napoli and three contrasted duets. Thurs-March 15, Michael Clark's new work is premiered with two other recent creations, the Gershwin-inspired Necessarily So and Christopher Bruce's dramatic Land.

ROYAL BALLET: La Fille mal gardee is given this afternoon and Wed. On Tues, MacMillan's Gloria and Eltiele (soloist Leslye) and Thurs, the bill with Egging's Frankenstein. Giselle returns with Ravenna Tucker in the title role with Fiona Chadwick on Fri. Covent Garden (01-240 1066).

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FRANCK/FAURE: Carlo Maria Giulini conducts the Philharmonia Orchestra in Franck's Symphony, then the Philharmonia Choir joins in for Faure's Requiem. Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191), credit cards 01-928 8800, Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

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DEBUSSY FIRST: Debussy's Khamma: Legende Danse gets its UK premiere at the LPO under James Conlon. Royal Festival Hall, Wed, 7.30pm.

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SHOSTAKOVICH CONTINUES: The Borodin Quartet's complete series of Shostakovich string quartets has now got to Quartets Nos 6-8. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191, credit cards 01-928 8800).

THEATRE

IN PREVIEW

AFTER AIDA: How librettist Arrigo Boito persuaded Verdi to end his long silence and compose such late masterpieces as Otello and Falstaff, Julian Mitchell's new play, directed by Howard Davis, with Ian Charleson and Gemma Jones. Old Vic (01-928 7616). Previews from Tues. Opens Mar 19.

THE FUTURISTS: Dusty Hughes's play, set in a basement club in Russia, 1921. Richard Eyre directs Peter Blythe, Charlotte

Cornwell (above), Daniel Day-Lewis, Jack Shepherd. Cotswold (01-928 2282). Previews today, Mon-Fri, Mar 15. Opens Mar 17.

ON TOUR: London Contemporary Dance Theatre is at Theatre Royal, Plymouth (0752-369595) tonight with a programme including Robert Cohan's latest work. Northern Ballet Theatre gives The Nutcracker twice today at the Grand Theatre, Swansea (0792 471715) and Tues-March 15 at the Grand Theatre, Blackpool (0253 28372).

PHOTOGRAPHY THE LIVING BODY: A visually stunning exploration of the human body by a host of photographers, including Snowdon, Lichfield, Walter Nurnberg, Patrick Eger and David Redfern. Science Museum, London SW7 (01-589 3456).

IMPRESSIONS IN ISRAEL: Snowdon and Lichfield again (portraits and landscapes conducted by) but this time joined by wildlife photographer Eric Hoskings. Exhibition Gallery, Selfridges, Oxford Street, London W1 (01-629 1234).

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WELSH NATIONAL OPERA: Booking open for spring tour, with new productions of Otello, Vesivka and The Barber of Seville.

FILMS

YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES (PG): Another display of comic-book japes and sumptuous special effects from Steven Spielberg, with Nicholas Rowe and Alan Cox as a teenage Holmes and Watson, scaling the mystery of the "pyramid of fear". Directed by Barry Levinson. Plaza (01-437 1234). From Fri.

JAGGED EDGE (18): Polished thriller with much courtroom tension. Glenn

LIVERPOOL: Shirley Valentini, Korean Karshaw, of Granada TV's Alibi Market, in Willy Russell's latest show. Everyman (051 709 4776). Opens Thurs.

SHEFFIELD: Carmen Jones: European premiere of the stage musical based on Prosper Merimee's Carmen. Crucible (0742 79922). Public dress rehearsals Thurs and Fri matinee. Opens Fri eve.

LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET: The company splits itself in two this week to appear in different cities. One team presents Coppelia today at the Theatre Royal, Nottingham (0602 42328) and Mon-March 15 at the Apollo, Oxford (0865 44544), where Rudolf Nureyev appears as guest on Thurs, Fri. The smaller team, under the title LFB2, goes to the Theatre Royal, Bath (0225 65065) with two programmes. Mon-Wed they include Paul Taylor's sunny Aurora, the classic Dances from Napoli and three contrasted duets. Thurs-March 15, Michael Clark's new work is premiered with two other recent creations, the Gershwin-inspired Necessarily So and Christopher Bruce's dramatic Land.

ROYAL BALLET: La Fille mal gardee is given this afternoon and Wed. On Tues, MacMillan's Gloria and Eltiele (soloist Leslye) and Thurs, the bill with Egging's Frankenstein. Giselle returns with Ravenna Tucker in the title role with Fiona Chadwick on Fri. Covent Garden (01-240 1066).

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Fed lowers rate as Group of Five shows its muscle

From Bailey Morris Washington

The US Federal Reserve Board, following the lead of West Germany and Japan, yesterday lowered the discount rate to 7 per cent as part of a general move towards lower interest rates which provides a vivid example of the economic power wielded by the Group of Five nations.

Analysts said yesterday the widely rumoured discount rate cuts were proof that the Group of Five nations had achieved the convergence of economic policies they pledged themselves to attain when signing the now famous "Plaza Accord" to lower the dollar on September 22 last year.

The Federal Reserve's announcement that it was lowering the discount rate, in its first overt move to stimulate the economy through lower interest rates since last May, followed the surprising report that US unemployment jumped to 7.3 per cent last month from 6.7 per cent in January. The increase was the biggest since May 1980 and it took the Reagan administration by surprise.

Mr Beryl Sprinkel, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors, said yesterday: "We did not expect it to rise." The White House issued a separate statement saying the February rise, the first since January last year, was "aberrant" caused largely by bad weather and flooding in key sections of the country.

"The unemployment pic-



Mr Volcker: dissension

ture is much better than the numbers alone would indicate," claimed Mr Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman.

The unemployment statistics - which revealed surprising weakness in the manufacturing sector in addition to downturns in construction and energy-related hiring

due to bad weather - were cited as the primary reason for the Federal Reserve's decision to lower the discount rate yesterday.

Almost immediately, a wave of large and small US banks responded to the cut in the rate they pay for their funds by announcing reductions in their prime lending rates to 9 per cent from 9.5 per cent. This is the rate banks charge their best customers.

Morgan Guaranty, Chase Manhattan, Citibank and smaller banks such as Citizens National Bank in Leesburg, Florida, were among those to lower their prime lending rates.

US long-term interest rates have been dropping sharply in recent weeks in response to the collapse of oil prices which markets believed would give the Federal Reserve ample room to lower the discount rate without undermining the dollar. But short-term rates had remained high because of

Federal Reserve policy of holding the 7.5 discount rate.

Analysts said yesterday the fact that the dollar held steady in a middle range, avoiding a "crash landing" despite the interest rate cuts, was proof of the success of the co-ordination achieved by the Group of Five nations which comprises the United States, Britain, West Germany, Japan and France.

Over the last week, there have been published reports of dissension among governors of the Federal Reserve Board which is chaired by Mr Paul Volcker. Four governors recently appointed by the Reagan administration have been pressing for lower interest rates and an easier monetary policy to stimulate the economy, but Mr Volcker has warned in recent weeks that the Central Bank had to be careful not to undermine the dollar and force it into a crash landing which would reignite inflation.

Bank of Japan's second discount cut

From David Watts, Tokyo

The Bank of Japan is to cut the official discount rate by half a percentage point from Monday.

The decision to cut the rate to 4 per cent was taken yesterday at an emergency meeting of the central bank's policy board following the cuts by West Germany and France.

The last cut in the official rate was made 40 days ago and this second reduction is the first time the bank has made

cuts in such short order. The reduction was timed to follow immediately after that in West Germany to prevent a possible shift of speculative money from the mark to the yen.

The reduction will take the official discount rate to its lowest level since the spring of 1979.

Bank and postal savings interest rates are expected to fall also. The central bank was com-

mitted to act not least by the continuing strength of the yen which has been putting pressure on Japanese firms, particularly the smaller exporters.

The Japanese government has been under renewed pressure at home to provide some fresh stimulus for the slowing domestic economy. A quarterly business survey by the bank to be released shortly is expected to show clear signs of a slump.

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

One point or two - that is the question

There are two things of immediate significance about the round of interest rate cutting begun by the Bundesbank on Thursday and continued yesterday by the Bank of Japan and, with surprising alacrity, the Federal Reserve Board of the United States.

One is that the talk of a co-ordinated interest rate strategy that emerged before the January Group of Five meeting in London and pooh-poohed by, among others, Nigel Lawson, is actually taking place.

The Fed took the trouble in its statement accompanying the announcement of the cut in discount rate from 7.5 to 7 per cent to stress that it was acting "in the context of similar action by other important industrial countries". And, if a German rate cut on Thursday, followed by Japanese and American cuts on Friday does not smack of co-ordination, it is difficult to know what the word means.

The second important point is that the industrialized countries are adjusting their monetary policies to a new era in which, thanks to the collapse of oil and other commodity prices, it is no longer necessary to overcompensate through very tight domestic monetary management.

Paul Volcker, the Fed chairman, is not worried about the dollar's fall because it might rekindle US inflation. Instead, he is concerned that the dollar's decline could snowball to the point where it will be difficult keeping enough foreign capital in the US to cover the budget deficit.

As might be expected, the round of rate-cutting was broadly neutral in its effects on currencies. The US cut was the least anticipated of the three and there were market suggestions of some intervention to buoy the dollar around the time of the discount rate announcement.

In the meantime, the pound, as it was yesterday afternoon, should continue to benefit from the extra interest rate cushion provided by others' rate cuts. Apart from the Japanese and German moves, the Fed appears to have been influenced by some real economy news - the rise in US unemployment from 6.7 per cent in January to 7.3 per cent last month.

The market is now hoping for substantive rate cuts timed to coincide with the Budget, or perhaps even just ahead of March 18. One percentage point or two was the question taxing traders' imaginations last night as they departed for the weekend, thrilled by the prospect of a major break in UK rates and gilt yields. Fears of poor money supply figures this coming Tuesday have temporarily abated as gilts stormed ahead.

Some minutes after the Federal Reserve had acted, Chase Manhattan and Chemical Bank cut their Prime Rates to 9 per cent. The move towards cheaper money in the US had an immediate galvanising effect on the sterling-dollar exchange rate, pushing it ahead to \$1.46 and

beyond. London now stands out as a conspicuous exception to the global round of rate cutting.

The discount houses are starting to get the whiff of cheaper money in the air. They have been manifestly reluctant to offer longer dated paper this week to the authorities, as massive shortages have been taken out. Yesterday, the top accepted rate of discount on the Treasury bill tender fell sharply to 11.5 per cent from 11.8 per cent last week. The Government Broker conspicuously failed to appear at 3.30, to sell stock and tamp down the over-exuberant gilt market.

Buy on rumour, sell on news is normally a first-class maxim for traders in tricky markets. But with the prospect of even better news in the offing, the market's only likely response is to keep buying. And that means yields keep falling.

Tokyo's summit test

The "sherpas" meeting outside London over the weekend, in preparation for the Tokyo economic summit at the beginning of May, will have more to discuss than the present gyrations of interest and exchange rates.

That issue is on the back burner until after the April meeting of the International Monetary Fund's top committee of finance ministers, at which the United States may descend to explain what President Reagan wants in the way of an international monetary conference. Meanwhile, the manoeuvres centre on give-and-take with the summit's host, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone.

Before the summit - probably in April - the Japanese will produce their usual "package" of import-boosting measures.

This year, Mr Nakasone is under particular strain to make the summit a success, both as host and because of his domestic need to demonstrate that the international stance he has taken pays dividends. His summit partners are suggesting that this depends on pre-summit moves that look credible in their countries, and could thus be enthusiastically welcomed in Tokyo.

In practice, what this seems to mean is that the usual Japanese package of small encouragements to imports of oranges, beef and biscuits, or minor amendments to financial market rules, will not do.

Mr Nakasone has already gone further, towards a general commitment to expand domestic demand. His European partners want this translated, if not into specific import targets, at least into some view of the likely increase in total imports that might result. A quantified forecast seems to be the likely compromise.

To some extent, these manoeuvres are mere window-dressing: stimuli to demand cannot be very fast-acting, and, meanwhile, the fall in oil prices is likely further to increase Japan's vast surplus: figures in the region of \$65 billion for this year are already coming out of international models.

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1308.8 (+8.4)

FT-SE 100 1573.8 (+7.7)

USM (Datastream) 115.1 (-0.35)

THE POUND

US dollar 1.4550 (-0.0035)

W German mark 3.2563 (-0.0115)

Trade-weighted 73.7 (0.1)

BT to buy Dialcom

British Telecom announced in New York yesterday that it has signed a letter of intent with the ITT Corporation to acquire its subsidiary ITT Dialcom. Completion is expected next month.

As part of the purchase British Telecom will acquire all Dialcom's electronic mail and messaging business, including relevant software, licences and copyrights.

The consideration, which will be paid in cash, will represent less than one per cent of British Telecom's net assets.

£11m loss

STC, the electronics company headed by Lord Keith of Castleacre, made a loss of £11.4 million before tax in the year to December 1985, against a profit of £141 million in 1984. Turnover was barely changed at £2 billion and there was no dividend.

Tempus, page 24

Murdoch deal

Mr Rupert Murdoch, the newspaper publisher, has completed his \$1.55 billion (£1.068 billion) purchase of six US television stations in New York, Washington, Los Angeles, Houston, Dallas and Chicago from Metromedia.

Press change

Mr John L. Barrons has resigned from the board of the Press Association and will be succeeded by Sir Richard Storey, chairman of Portsmouth and Sunderland Newspapers.

Shares sale

Gold Greenlees Trutt's offer for sale of 3 million shares has been oversubscribed. The allotment will be announced on Monday.

Irving offer

The formal offer document for Smith St Aubyn by Irving International Financing Corp estimates net tangible assets on February 27 of £8 million, equivalent to about 37p an ordinary share.

Site sold

Glanfield Lawrence has exchanged contracts for the sale of its freehold premises at Wakefield, Yorkshire, for £52,000, producing a surplus of £75,000 over the valuation in the accounts.

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Table with columns for stock names and price changes. Includes items like Pirelli, Lloyds, and various metals.

Tory MPs plan to give SIB wide investigative powers

By Lawrence Lever

Conservative MPs, who amended the Financial Services Bill, plan wide powers for the Securities and Investments Board. It would be able to investigate insider dealing and bring criminal prosecutions against unauthorized investment advisers.

The amendment on Thursday made the board the designated agency in the Bill to which the Secretary of State's regulatory powers can be transferred.

But there was some confusion about the effect of the amendment to clause 96 of the Bill. There was also concern in the City that the amendment would make the board more bureaucratic and therefore less competent to perform its role as lynchpin of the planned self-regulatory system.

Mr Anthony Nelson, Conservative MP for Chichester, who proposed the amendment said that as the Bill stood,

even with the amendment, "there are a whole series of things that SIB can not do even when the Secretary of State's powers are delegated to it".

"We want to see that SIB can investigate insider dealing, unauthorized investment advisers and, in certain cases to be able to institute criminal prosecutions," he said.

At present section 147 of the Bill gives the Secretary of State power to appoint inspectors to investigate insider dealing, and the board can only refer to the police any investment business which operates without authorization.

Mr Nelson, who claimed to have substantial party support, said that his aim was to produce a form of the board which would mean this or future governments did not have to establish an SEC-type body.

There was confusion yesterday as to the exact effect of the amendment which merely involved an insertion of the board's name into clause 96 of the Bill which allows the Secretary of State to delegate certain of his functions to a designated agency.

A spokesman for the board yesterday said that the amendment did not, as some supposed, make it a statutory body, but merely gave it statutory recognition.

"We have no extra powers," the spokesman said. "All that has happened is that the amendment has reduced the Secretary of State's discretion as to whom he can delegate his powers."

Mr Gordon Pepper, a senior partner at stockbrokers V Greenwell & Co, said that the amendment, as a move towards a statutory body "would very seriously discourage practitioners from becoming involved".

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Argyll and Guinness lift stakes in Distillers

Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank, has bought 825,000 Distillers shares at 62p, it was revealed last night.

It was acting as agent for Allied Irish Banks Group, Australia and New Zealand Banking Group and the British Linen Bank which are deemed to be acting in concert with Guinness.

Guinness and those acting in concert now own a total of 37,950,000 Distillers' shares, amounting to 10.4 per cent of the company.

Argyll also bought Distillers' shares, and it, together with persons deemed to be acting in concert, purchased 1,400,000 shares on Thursday. They now own 46,350,000 shares, amounting to 12.77 per cent of the company.

The purchases were all made at prices between 62p and 63p. Samuel Montagu and Charterhouse Japhet each bought 625,000 shares for their own accounts and Noble Grossart and Noble Grossart Investments each purchased 75,000 shares for their own accounts.

Neither Guinness nor Argyll Group is prepared to leave anything to chance in their struggle to annex Distillers: yesterday's buying in the market proved that.

For the time being Guinness is clearly heartened by Mr Justice Macpherson's ruling in the High Court on Thursday that Sir Godfrey Le Queux, chairman of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, had not exceeded his powers in personally laying aside the reference to the MMC of the first Guinness bid.

On the substantive issue whether Sir Godfrey was right in deciding that Guinness had abandoned its first set of proposals, the judge also found in Sir Godfrey's favour.

Argyll has scheduled a knee-jerk appeal against the judgment in the Court of Appeal on Monday.

If Mr Macpherson is upheld, all eyes will then be focused on Sir Gordon Borne, the Director General of Fair Trading, who will be recommended to refer of the second Guinness bid and if so, what would be the political reaction to a decision which would be instantly interpreted as tantamount to handing Distillers over to Argyll?

Meanwhile students of the detail of Argyll's tactics will be intrigued by the penultimate paragraph of Mr Macpherson's judgment. "One of the exhibits," he noted, "had strange features." He thought that "it will be far better that the lesson which has quite plainly been learned by those involved should simply be allowed to be learned."

None the less, it was "vitaly important that before affidavits are sworn the provenance of the exhibits and the truth of every word of the affidavit should be checked."

Ward White to pay £94m for Payless

Marley, the building materials group, yesterday agreed to sell its chain of 65 Payless DIY stores to Ward White, the expanding retail group, for £94 million.

The deal underpins a restructuring by Marley and completes a spending spree by Ward White, which has taken over Halfords, the car accessories group, Zodiac toy shops, and the Owen Owen department store chain.

Payless, which had a trading profit of £9.7 million last year, is Britain's third largest DIY chain. Ward White is partly financing the purchase - the price is below market estimates - through a rights issue of preference shares to raise £74.4 million.

Hanson urges Imperial bid comparison

By Our City Staff

In the continuing battle over the Imperial Group Lord Hanson yesterday accused Sir Hector Laing, chairman of United Biscuits, of failing to tell his shareholders how United's present bid compares with the Imperial's original proposals.

In a letter to Sir Hector, Lord Hanson told him: "You and your board have failed to explain to your shareholders, how, for them, the offer for Imperial compares with the original proposals."

He says that under the terms of Imperial's offer for United, "your shareholders would have received 42 per cent of the equity, a significant increase in capital value and a huge increase of dividend".

In contrast, the present terms, according to Lord Hanson, meant that former United Biscuits shareholders "could now end up with no more than 28 per cent of the equity and no assurance of any dividend beyond the modest increase" proposed for 1985.

Sir Hector immediately issued a statement in response to the letter stating that: "By making its offer for Imperial, Hanson Trust effectively blocked the originally proposed merger between UB and Imperial."

"There is thus no point in comparing those proposals with the UB offer for Imperial since the former are no longer available."

City. In return, the buffer stock would be wound up. A modest capitalization of £270 million was proposed. But even this was too much for the ITC members: they whitened their share from £200 million to £115 million.

At the last minute, however, Indonesia said that the plan was unacceptable. The official reason was that TinCo could not work because there was too much tin about.

Privately, bankers and brokers agreed. But for them any settlement was better than none. An estimated eight members of the LME faced bankruptcy if prices went into freefall. Experts believe that prices could reach £4,000 a tonne or less.

Unless a miraculous cure is found, such a collapse seems inevitable. The repercussions of brokers' financial difficulties will be felt throughout the City as a chain reaction of mutual debts is set off. The London Metal Exchange could be one of its biggest casualties.

Grim legacy of tin collapse

By Michael Prest, Financial Correspondent

When talks on finding a solution to the tin crisis collapsed on Thursday, more was lost than several months' painstaking work, or the chance to prevent bankruptcies in the City, or even thousands of jobs in mining and ancillary industries.

With the last hope of accord on one of the biggest financial debacles of modern times went the long-cherished belief in commodity agreements and the reputation of governments as trustworthy debtors.

For the key to the crisis was the mismanagement of the International Tin Council by its 22 member countries, and their subsequent reluctance to pay the £300 million of debts accumulated by the council.

tin-mining capacity exceeded demand. The ITC's solution was not to lower the price but to restrict exports. Excess stocks accumulated, and sooner or later they would have to be sold. Prices on the London Metal Exchange, the world's main market for tin, began to drift down.

The ITC's efforts concentrated on the buffer stock, run by its manager, Mr Pieter de Koning. The buffer stock was allowed to buy and sell tin to help to regulate the price.

As the tin market became more precarious, the buffer stock's involvement became more complicated. Many tin dealers, most of them members of the LME, regarded the council as a one-way bet: if the price was falling one could sell the ITC tin futures contracts in the knowledge that, as a government organization, it could pay.

happened. On October 24 last year, the council telephoned the LME to say that it could no longer support the market.

When the size of the ITC's commitments emerged, the full dimension of the disaster was obvious. In all, its tin positions were worth £550 million, most of the business being with half of the LME's 26 members. The ITC also owed banks £350 million. Tin trading on the LME was immediately suspended at £8,140 a tonne. But it was not until Christmas 1985 that a workable plan was devised. The plan owed much to the Bank of England. It persuaded Mr Peter Graham, senior deputy chairman of Standard Chartered Bank, one of the ITC's creditors, to help.

The plan envisaged setting up a company, first called NewCo and later TinCo, which would take on all the ITC's outstanding obligations. It would be financed by ITC member countries, the bankers and brokers, and the British Government, which had an interest in seeing peace in the

Oppenheimer Our fund management plus the best of the rest. The newly formed Oppenheimer Unit Trust Portfolio Management Service will appeal to those investors with £10,000 or more who seek capital appreciation from a portfolio of unit trusts invested around the world.

Vertical list of stock market data and prices on the right margin.

WALL STREET

New York (Reuters) - In expectation of a discount rate cut, stocks early on Thursday carried their rally past the 1,700 level of the Dow Jones industrial average.

Amerasia Hess led the actives, down 3 1/2% at 19 1/2. It said that it was missing the dividend.

Oil was mostly lower on concerns related to Amerasia's dividend omission and deficit, traders said. But financials

Table with columns for stock symbols (AAPL, AMZN, etc.), prices, and changes. Includes sub-sections for 'MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD' and 'EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %'.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES table showing exchange rates for various currencies like New York, Brussels, Frankfurt, etc.

Sterling, which traded within a narrow band throughout yesterday, closed 45 points higher against the dollar at 1.4585.

The unexpected and spectacular collapse of the tin talks cast a long and gloomy shadow over metals yesterday.

Nevertheless, Asarco increased its copper cathode price by half a cent to 67 1/2 cents a pound.

Other sterling rates table showing rates for Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, etc.

COMMODITIES

Table listing commodity prices for items like Soyabean, Gas Oil, and various metals.

MEAT AND LIVESTOCK COMMISSION report on cattle and sheep prices.

Table listing prices for various types of cattle and sheep.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS section header.

Large table listing various financial trusts and their performance metrics.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Table showing money market rates and gold prices.

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

Table showing Euro money deposit rates for different currencies and terms.

GOLD

Table showing gold prices in various currencies.

ECGD

Table showing ECGD (Export Credit Guarantee Department) rates.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table listing London financial futures contracts and their prices.

CANADIAN PRICES

Table listing Canadian stock prices for various companies.

AMERICAN STOCK MARKET

Table listing American stock market data and indices.

AMERICAN BOND MARKET

Table listing American bond market data.

AMERICAN CURRENCY MARKET

Table listing American currency market data.

AMERICAN ENERGY MARKET

Table listing American energy market data.

AMERICAN METALS MARKET

Table listing American metals market data.

AMERICAN AGRICULTURE MARKET

Table listing American agriculture market data.

AMERICAN TRANSPORT MARKET

Table listing American transport market data.

AMERICAN UTILITIES MARKET

Table listing American utilities market data.

AMERICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS MARKET

Table listing American telecommunications market data.

AMERICAN REAL ESTATE MARKET

Table listing American real estate market data.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Extensive table providing detailed information on various unit trusts, including their names, managers, and performance data.

Quotations refer to Thursday's trading

كلمة من الاقتصاد

TEMPUS

Oil slide raises doubts on Tricentrol payout

Times are tough at Tricentrol when there is no hospitality suite at the Institute of Petroleum annual bunfight. Even the outing to Henley looks to be in doubt this year.

Exploration shares are never tipped as income stocks and Tricentrol is no exception. Yet, if it sticks to its undertaking made at the time of the convertible rights issue that, in the absence of unforeseen circumstances, it would maintain its 1985 dividend at the same level as 1984, Tricentrol's shares are now yielding 12.9 per cent at the current price of 111p.

In common with all the pure oil and gas exploration companies, Tricentrol is not enjoying the effects of the falling oil price. It is particularly painful when there are interest and dividend payments to be made, and big capital spending commitments on development and exploration.

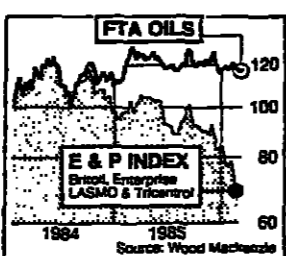
Of course, it all depends on where the oil price goes from here - but the sterling price for Brent is now less than £11 per barrel, not much more than half the average price realized during 1985 of £19.50.

Assuming no further price falls, the company will be hard-pressed not to show a pretax loss in 1986 after depreciation and interest charges, while cash flow may only be £30 million, half of what is expected to be announced for 1985.

As with all oil companies with huge capital spending programmes, much of it is discretionary, although a too-hasty scramble out of a falling market can be costly.

Tricentrol can reduce its commitments by sales, farm-outs and by deferring its exploration. By this means, its capital expenditure could be significantly reduced from the estimated £55 million in 1985.

With all the stops pulled out to match spending with income, borrowings in 1986 will still increase by about £10 million (the amount required for the Wyth Farm development) unless it sells its share of the Amethyst gas field in the North Sea. This is likely to fetch about £30 million. Until it is sold, interest charges will remain a serious drain on resources.



Which brings us back to the dividend. Unlike interest charges, dividends are not immutable. The much diminished oil price could qualify as an "unforeseen circumstance" permitting a cut in the final.

On the other hand, the 1985 results due on March 27 will be fairly good, reflecting last year's oil prices and the directors are likely to feel bound to maintain the dividend.

Investors cannot be so sanguine about next year's dividend. It looks as if it will have to be paid out of the proceeds of the sale of Amethyst and it could be cut by 50 per cent or more.

STC

Every time STC has a review or reappraisal the news gets worse. Yesterday it announced that further re-assessment of the business had led to yet more rationalization costs and write downs, costing £109 million for the whole of last year.

The net result was a £58 million bottom line loss.

Even Lord Keith, the chairman, was forced to describe the year as most unsatisfactory.

For specific information on how far costs have been reduced, what the group plans to sell and exactly how the £109 million exceptional and extraordinary items were made up, shareholders must wait for the report and accounts.

If the document does not include this detail, they might conclude that the new board does not know the answers.

The £67 million exceptional item covers rationalization costs at the continuing activities, including 5,500 redundancies. The £42 million extraordinary charge includes write downs of certain businesses which are up for sale.

As only half the £109

million was actually spent last year, it is difficult to see how the company can be certain of the precise figure.

It must hope that these provisions will clear the deck at least in accounting terms. Yesterday's figures confirm just how much more action is required.

Trading profits were down from £171 million to £92.7 million but because the company has changed the way it presents the divisional figures since the interim stage it is impossible to see exactly which activity was responsible.

But it is clear that ICI, bought in September 1984, is now propping up the group. It contributed 76 per cent of the total operating profit.

Meanwhile the company succeeded in reversing the cash outflow in the second half, through strenuous cuts in capital spending, stock reductions and disposals. At the year end borrowings stood at £211 million or 45 per cent of shareholders' funds.

That is hardly enough to support the share price at its current level. At 132p, up from 116p, buyers are flying on a wing and prayer. But then they are in good company, with the board seemingly doing much the same.

IMI/Martonair

It seems that share prices still do not discount bids. Yesterday the announcement from IMI that it had received an approach from Martonair that it had received an approach from IMI added 35 per cent to its price, taking it from 408p to 550p.

That, it seems, was the intention. IMI, the drinks dispenser and titanium supplier, had approached Martonair, but it was nevertheless surprised to see the announcement as the talks had not become serious. However, a takeover, which after yesterday's rise would cost more than £70 million, would be attractive to IMI because Martonair has 25 per cent of the home market for pneumatic control equipment.

Martonair confidently asserts that it would be attractive to other companies. BTR and Hawker Siddeley are thought to be interested, but an exit multiple in the high teens could put them off.

COMPANY NEWS

ALLIED-LYONS: To strengthen their position in the £125 million a year British wine market, two group offshoots, Vine Products and Whiteways, are to merge on June 22. Amalgamation of the sales forces will extend the markets which these businesses reach, particularly in off-trade outlets.

STOCK CONVERSION: The group has sold Coventry House, at the corner of Haymarket and Coventry Street, London, to a private company for £5.25 million. It has also sold its leasehold interest in St Albans House, Haymarket, for £1 million.

FIVE INDMARK: Results for 1985 (comparisons restated). Final dividend 2.75p, payable on April 28, making 3.5p (3.5p adjusted). Turnover £14.2 million (£12.89 million). Pretax profit £318,000 (£332,000). Earnings per share 3.69p (4.04p).

LEINWORTH BENSON EUROBOOND FUND: Six months to March 5, 1986. Interim dividend 65.33p (64.18p). Gross revenue £1.32 million (£1.4 million). Net revenue £746,000 (£744,000).

JAMES WILKES: Final dividend 3.75p, making 6.75p (4.8p adjusted) for 1985. Turnover £5.74 million (£5.6 million). Pretax profit £1 million (£946,000). Earnings per share 16.5p (16.7p adjusted).

SPP: Final dividend 2p (nil) for 1985, as foreshadowed in the prospectus. Turnover £32.5 million (£30.48 million). Profit before tax £2.74 million (£1.96 million). Orders show a significant increase, the board reports.

LAND SECURITIES: A subsidiary, Ravenside Investments, has acquired the Texas bulk unit at Edgware Rd, West Hendon, London, from Texas Homecare and leased it back at £6.25 per sq ft. In Manchester Rd, Bolton, Lancashire, it has acquired the W H Smith "do it all" complex of 84,500 sq ft with garden centre, leasing it back at £4.00 per sq ft. In Cheddiam Hill, Manchester, Ravenside has acquired from G Dew & Co, the MFI and W H Smith "do it all" complex of 84,500 sq ft.

STEEL BROTHERS HOLDINGS: The company has bought 85 per cent of Airport Services of Sydney, Australia, for about Aus\$2 million (£963,000) cash.

AMERICAN ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS: Six months to Dec. 31, 1985, compared with the six months to June 30, 1985. An interim dividend of 0.35p is being paid and the board intends to recommend a final of 0.525p. Turnover £3.64 million (£2.03 million). Pretax profit £835,000 (£715,000).

CITY AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT: There was a dividend of 1p (nil) for 1985. Gross income of £119,964 (£85,923) comprises dividends and pretax revenue of 49,295 (£18,255) carried per share of 0.78p (0.38p) and net asset value per share of 141.¼ (139.1/2p).

Share prices gain ground on interest rate hopes

Stock markets ended the account in fine form as American and Japanese interest rates fell, kindling hopes of an early cut in domestic rates, perhaps even before the Budget on March 18. The FT 30-share index ended the day 9.4 points up, at 1,308.8, while the FT-SE closed at 1,573.8, up 7.7.

Government stocks held steady for most of the session, but finished over ¼ a point higher after the US prime cuts. Leaders also had a quieter day, but went ahead snarled in unofficial trading as dealers took advantage of the "new-time" facility for the three-week account, which officially begins next Monday and includes the Budget.

Takeover activity continued to stimulate secondary stocks. Among the "blue chips", ICI reached a record £10 ¼ a share, up 35p on persistent American demand. Cadbury Schweppes continued to reflect satisfaction with Thursday's results, rising 5p to 175p, but Lacas, at 618p, lost 5p on profit-taking.

Tin and commodity stocks suffered from the collapse in the international rescue talks, but S & W Berisford, unchanged at 204p, recovered an early 6p fall awaiting takeover developments.

In contrast, Dalgety dipped 12p to 263p and Geover Tin Mines, at 50p, and Tanjong Tin Dredging, at 70p, tumbled 11p and 30p respectively.

In electricals, STC jumped 16p to 132p - analysts were encouraged by an impressive meeting that followed results which were as bad as expected. Martonair were hoisted 117p to 527p on the disclosure that it had received a bid approach from IMI, which in turn hardened 3p to 150p.

Buildings featured Marley, which were little changed at 108p on confirmation that its Pavless subsidiary had been sold to Ward White. Ward White eased 6p to 266p following the £84 million fundraising operation to pay for the deal.

Bumper profits on Thursday boosted Williams Holdings a further 27p to 375p. Steeley were wanted at 442p, up 16p. The results are scheduled for the March 24, and the company is a perennial takeover favourite.

George Scholes, with an annual meeting due on March 19, climbed 25p to 530p in thin trading. Evered, stimulated by its stake in TI Group which on Thursday reported sharply higher profits, climbed 22p to 238p. TI Group added 2p to 473p.

British Aerospace continue to reflect satisfaction with several brokers' recent upgrades and improved another 7p to 570p. Mitchell Cotts, which shocked the market on Thursday with sharply

reduced profits, slipped 3p more to 67p.

Engineers were firm, with Weir Group up 6p to 98p and Howden Group 5p better at 108p. BSR added 5p to 110p after recent figures. Laidlaw Thomson, reporting next Monday, were marked up 21p to 105p. Amstrad continued their strong march forward with a spectacular 44p rise to 434p, helped by an encouraging press article.

In carparts, Burnstex added 6p to 144p after the chairman's optimistic remarks with the annual report. Lex Service Group added 10p to 331p on recovery prospects. Jaguar, which reports full-year results next Thursday, slipped 7p to 448p.

In quiet breweries, Mather Brown were singled out for a 25p rise to 455p on renewed speculative demand.

Boots put on 1p to 236p following the £18 million acquisition of the troubled Farley Group. Elsewhere in former stores, Woolworth were marked up 8p to 526p.

McCarthy's Pharmaceuticals, which recently fell to a bid from a John Goven-led consortium, advanced to a record 385p, up 17p. In contrast, Fisons slipped another 13p to 493p on profit-taking.

W. Cassing attracted renewed speculative interest at 109p, up 8p. Park Place jumped 22p to 278p on vague talk of expansion plans. Reebok cash-raising activities boosted the parent company, Pentland, 30p to 390p. United Computer & Technology rose 11p to 128p on bid hopes.

Clearing banks softened a few pence after the recent excitement generated by their good results. Standard Chartered typified this by slipping 8p to 314p, additionally worried by the impact of the tin crisis.

In money, brokers' fading takeover hopes left Mercantile House down 7p to 317p. Elsewhere profit-taking knocked 10p from the recent high-flyer Stainless Metallcraft at 145p.

Vague rumours that the Trustee Savings Bank is about to bid for London and Manchester Assurance lifted the latter's shares 23p to 892p and stimulated other life insurers. Pearl, for example, gained 40p to 416p.

Among overseas traders, Learse were again actively traded, climbing 21p to 280p excited by the company's statement referring to a possible stake build-up by an American consortium.

President Entertainment attracted interest at 108p, up 9p. Other firm spots included Berkeley Group, at 400p up 7p, and Perivox, 12p higher at 120p. Comment on Thursday's figures snipped 2¼p from American Electronics at 23p.

RECENT ISSUES

Abbott M V (180p)	216 dn 12	SPP (125p)	159 up 2
Ashley (L) (185p)	238 up 3	Templeton (215p)	221
Brookmount (160p)	178 dn 2	Sigmax (101p)	86
Chart FL (86p)	90	Snowdon & S (97p)	112
Chanoory Secs (63p)	69 dn 2	Spice (80p)	83
Cranwick M (95p)	108 dn 2	Tech Comp (130p)	214
Dransford P (160p)	163 up 3	Underwoods (180p)	181 dn 2
Dialene (128p)	175 up 5	Wellcome (120p)	184 up 1
Ferguson (J) (110p)	25 up 7	W York Hosp (90p)	75 dn 5
Garynys Surface (56p)	71	Wicks (140p)	150
Inoco (55p)	49		
JS Pathology (160p)	273 up 3		
Klearfold (118p)	113 dn 3		
Lexicon (115p)	138		
Macro 4 (105p)	136		
Merivale Moore (115p)	125		
Norank Sys (80p)	103 up 1		
Really Useful (830p)	361		
SAC Int (100p)	131		

Cray Elec F/P	295 dn 1
Hartwells N/P	4
Porter Chad F/P	4
Safeway UK	244 ½ dn ¼
Wates N/P	24
Westland F/P	73

(Issue price in brackets).

APPOINTMENTS

Woolwich Building Society: Mr Alan Cumming has become executive vice-chairman. Mr Donald Kirkham is now chief executive and Mr Edwin Phillips senior vice-chairman.

Guinness Brewing Worldwide: Mr John Davies has been made managing director, international division, and Mr David Burditt becomes executive chairman of Guinness Malaysia Berhad.

Dolphin Showers: Mr Robert Stratton has been appointed marketing director.

Wayne Kerr: Mr Keith Rashon joins the board.

International Thomson Organization: Mr J K Bryers joins the board as personnel director.

GEC Measurements: Mr W J Cheetham has been appointed technical director, Stafford division.

Hill Samuel Investment Services Group: Mr M E Tennant is now board director.

Tarmac Housing Division: Mr Greaville Brown has been made director and general manager of Tarmac Homes South Midlands. Mrs Philomena Wave becomes sales and marketing director of McLean Homes North, West & Cheshire. Mr John Wood is now sales and marketing director of Tarmac Homes Midlands.

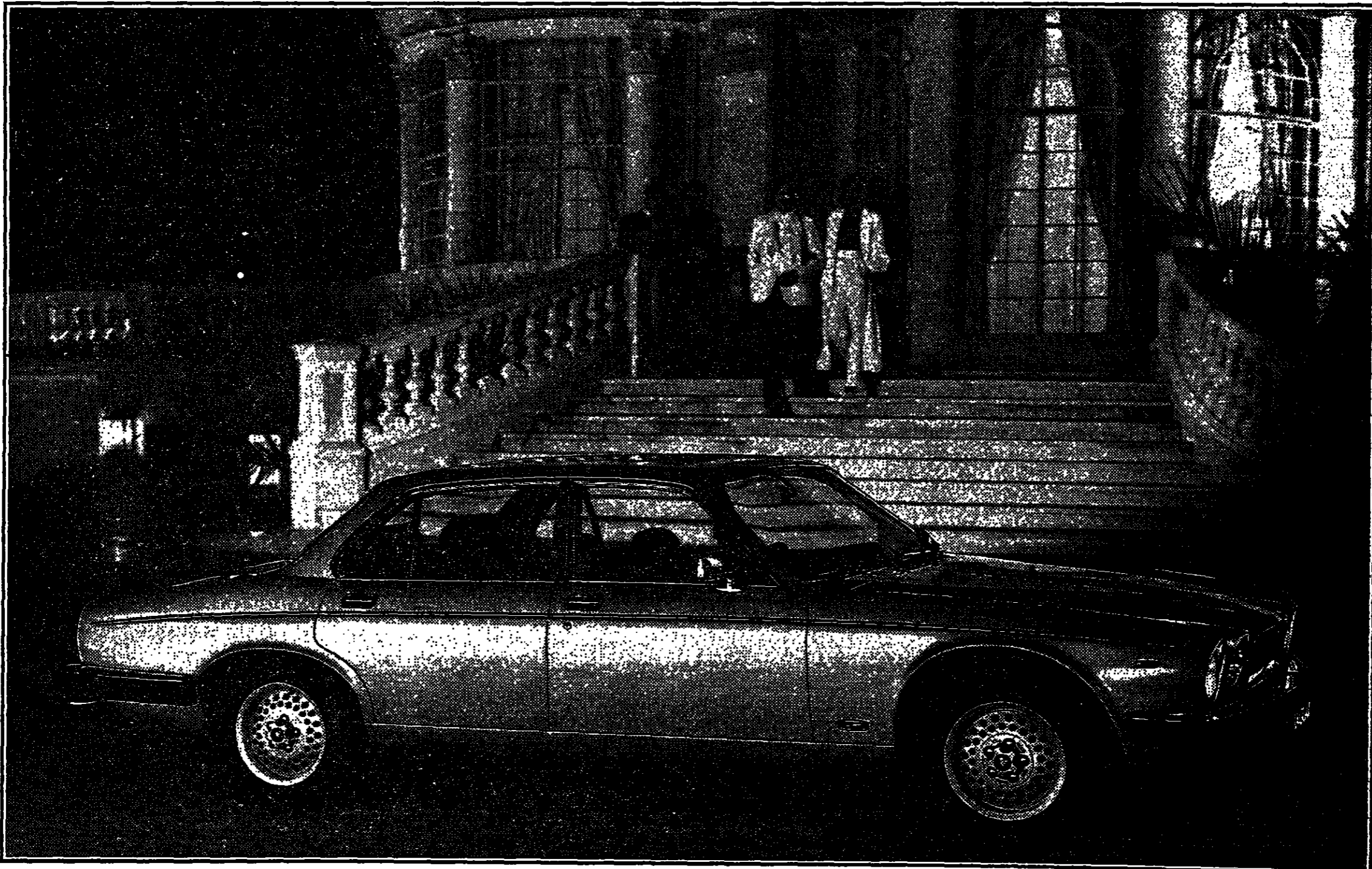
Security Pacific Corp: Mr Thomas G Dransby has been appointed senior vice-president, credit administration, of Security Pacific Eurofinance.

British Equestrian Promotions: Mr Christopher Hall has been made chairman.

Grandfield Roth Collins Financial: Mr Anthony Cardew has become chairman.

Clyden Claims Services: Mr P O Bousse has been appointed chairman and Mr P I Thomas has been made a director.

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Texaco to close US field

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

Texaco has become the first big oil company to announce the closure of producing wells. Its chairman revealed in London this week that it had trimmed its investment programme by 10 per cent this year because of falling world oil prices.

The company is to stop producing from 1,500 wells at Kern River in California, which is the fifth largest proven field in the US.

Crude from the field has become uneconomic at present prices of about \$12.

The wells are the company's smallest onshore with many falling into the "snapper" category which means that they produce less than 10 barrels a day.

Mr John McKinley, chairman of Texaco, has been in London this week to brief British executives.

But the company has not cut back so far on its British operations and is to continue planned North Sea developments.

Texaco, like most of the main oil companies, feels that the United Kingdom taxation regime, which allows exploration expenditure to be offset against oil revenues from the North Sea, provides a favourable climate for investment despite falling world oil prices.

Meanwhile, Egypt has cut its oil prices for the fourth time this year.

Prices for Egyptian crude for export customers have dropped to \$12.10 a barrel for heavy oil and \$19 for ultra-light crude.

The country's main export crude, Suez Blend, is now being offered to customers prepared to sign long term supply contracts at \$12.70 a barrel.

Signs point against EMS entry

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Whenever the pound falls to what looks like a long-term sustainable level against the West German mark, the rumour-machine in the City starts to work overtime.

The Government, it is said, is waiting for a certain trigger point against the mark to be reached, whether it be DM3.30, DM3.20 or DM3.10, before taking the pound into the European Monetary System as a full participant.

This week, the Public Policy Centre, in a report prepared by a host of distinguished names, called on the Government to take the pound into the exchange rate mechanism of the EMS.

The Confederation of British Industry, while welcoming the pound's lower level against the currencies of our competitors in Europe, is becoming restive about the increasing volatility in the foreign exchange markets.

The CBI president, Sir James Clesminson, recently renewed the employers' organization's call for EMS entry.

EMS membership, once thought to be inconsistent with the Government's targeting of domestic monetary aggregates, no longer suffers

from this problem, except in the eyes of the Liverpool monetarist Professor Patrick Minford.

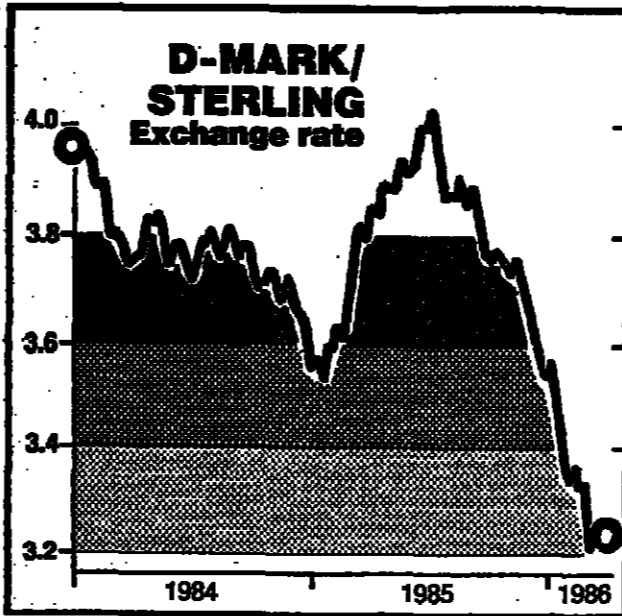
The generally held case is that the Government's commitment to monetary targets is now so weak that EMS membership, like the monetary rule favoured by Professor Milton Friedman, puts a constraint on irresponsible actions by politicians.

This view has certainly won favour among some senior Treasury officials. The Chancellor of the Exchequer's view on the EMS is not easy to determine but is said to be not so much against as agnostic.

This leaves the Prime Minister as the guardian of this particular show of British independence. During Question Time in the House of Commons on Thursday, Mrs Thatcher gave a familiar answer.

"One day, when we think the time is appropriate, we shall join the EMS," she said. "We do not think it is appropriate at the moment."

The answer, of course, is a politician's one, "at the moment" only referring to that specific time and not excluding British entry into



the EMS, even this weekend.

However, there are good reasons to suppose that the Government's resistance, or rather the Prime Minister's, will continue. The first is the traditional petro-currency argument. EMS supporters say that the effects on the pound of the halving of oil prices over the past three months would have been cushioned if sterling was in the currency mechanism.

Opponents say that this may indeed be the case, but that cushion would have had to be bought with much higher interest rates than we have at present, and that there are no indications that oil price uncertainties are coming to an end.

The second reason adds political uncertainties to oil ones. In the run-up to the next General Election, in 1987 or 1988, with the result likely to

be in the balance, heavy selling pressure on the pound could develop.

If sterling was in the EMS this pressure could only be met by a series of devaluations or a raising of interest rates, neither of which is politically appealing.

A third reason sees the Prime Minister's attitude to EMS entry as the grand political gesture which will be accomplished only in return for some concessions from our European partners. The Channel tunnel may have satisfied Mrs Thatcher's attitude for such gestures for the moment.

For the past 18 months, the pound has been highly unstable against the mark and other European currencies. Before that, there was a nine-month window of opportunity for EMS entry when the pound moved in the DM3.6-DM3.8 range, although many would say that level is too high.

The next big opportunity for EMS entry will come with the general realignment that is likely to follow this month's elections in France. But even supporters of the EMS may concede that conditions are not appropriate for sterling entry at present.

COMPANY NEWS

JARDINE SECURITIES: Net profit for 1985, HK\$39.4 million (about £3.5 million). Total dividend 25 cents (20 cents).

INSTEM: Final dividend for 1985 of 1.5p, making 2.25p (0.5p), payable on July 3. Turnover £6.05 million (£4.35 million). Profit before tax £872,000 (£646,000). Earnings per share 11.23p (8.85p). The board explains that its task in 1986 is to provide a platform for consistent growth and performance over the medium-term. After the record order intake in 1985, the company has an extremely good base from which to develop.

NEWBOLD & BURTON HOLDINGS: Final dividend 1.54p, making 3.08p (3.08p) for 1985. Turnover £13.65 million (£12.31 million). Pretax profit £283,000 (£83,000). Earnings per share 3.31p (0.83p). While margins are still tight, the board looks forward to continuing improvement.

IBL: Subject to some conditions, the company's subsidiary, IBL International, is to buy CIL Computer Leasing (ME) of Cyprus for an initial \$306,350 (£211,000), in shares or cash. The conditions are expected to be satisfied within three months. The agreement provides for the payment of additional deferred consideration. This will provide IBL with a valuable customer base for the expansion of its computer leasing in Bahrain and the Gulf states.

DELANEY GROUP: Final dividend 1.6p, making 2.4p (2.2p for 14 months). Turnover £8.03 million (£6.88 million). Pretax profit £660,000 (£556,000). Earnings per share 8.33p (4.16p).

PACER SYSTEMS: Turnover for 1985, \$17.03 million (£12.27 million). Pretax profit \$1.14 million (£784,000), against \$573,000. Earnings per share, undiluted 16 cents (10 cents) and diluted, 14 cents (9 cents). Pretax profits compare with the forecast of \$1.05 million made at the time of the placing last June. The group's order book is about \$52 million.

WILLIAMS HOLDINGS: As forecast, the directors will be recommending a dividend of 8p for 1985. Comparative figures have been restated. Turnover £100.94 million (£78.35 million). Pretax profit £6.34 million (£4.08 million).

LEX SERVICE: Final dividend 6.3p, making 10.6p (same) for 1985. Turnover £1,041.3 million (£1,196.9 million). Pretax profit £23.6 million (£46.8 million). Earnings per share 17.6p (34.7p). The board says overall results in 1986 will be materially affected by the performance of the electronic component distribution industry and, in particular, by the demand for semi-conductors.

FAMILY INVESTMENT TRUST: Total dividend of 8.25p (6.5p) for the year to Jan. 31, 1986. Total gross revenue £647,811 (£526,038).

CPU COMPUTERS: Half-year to Dec. 31, 1985. Turnover £7.75 million (£7.73 million). Pretax profit £251,000 (£10,000). Earnings per share 0.8p (loss 0.5p). The board is confident that the group will be able to resume and maintain steady growth.

LAW DEBENTURE CORPORATION: A final dividend of 3.55p (3.25p) is being paid on April 23, making 6.3p (5.5p) for 1985. Pretax net revenue £2.99 million (£2.47 million). Earnings per share 8.14p (6.87p).

BASE LENDING RATES

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Adam & Company	12 1/2%
BCCI	12 1/2%
Citibank Savings	12 1/2%
Consolidated Crds	12 1/2%
Continental Trust	12 1/2%
Co-operative Bank	12 1/2%
C. Hoare & Co	12 1/2%
Lloyds Bank	12 1/2%
Nat Westminster	12 1/2%
Royal Bank of Scotland	12 1/2%
TSB	12 1/2%
Citibank NA	12 1/2%

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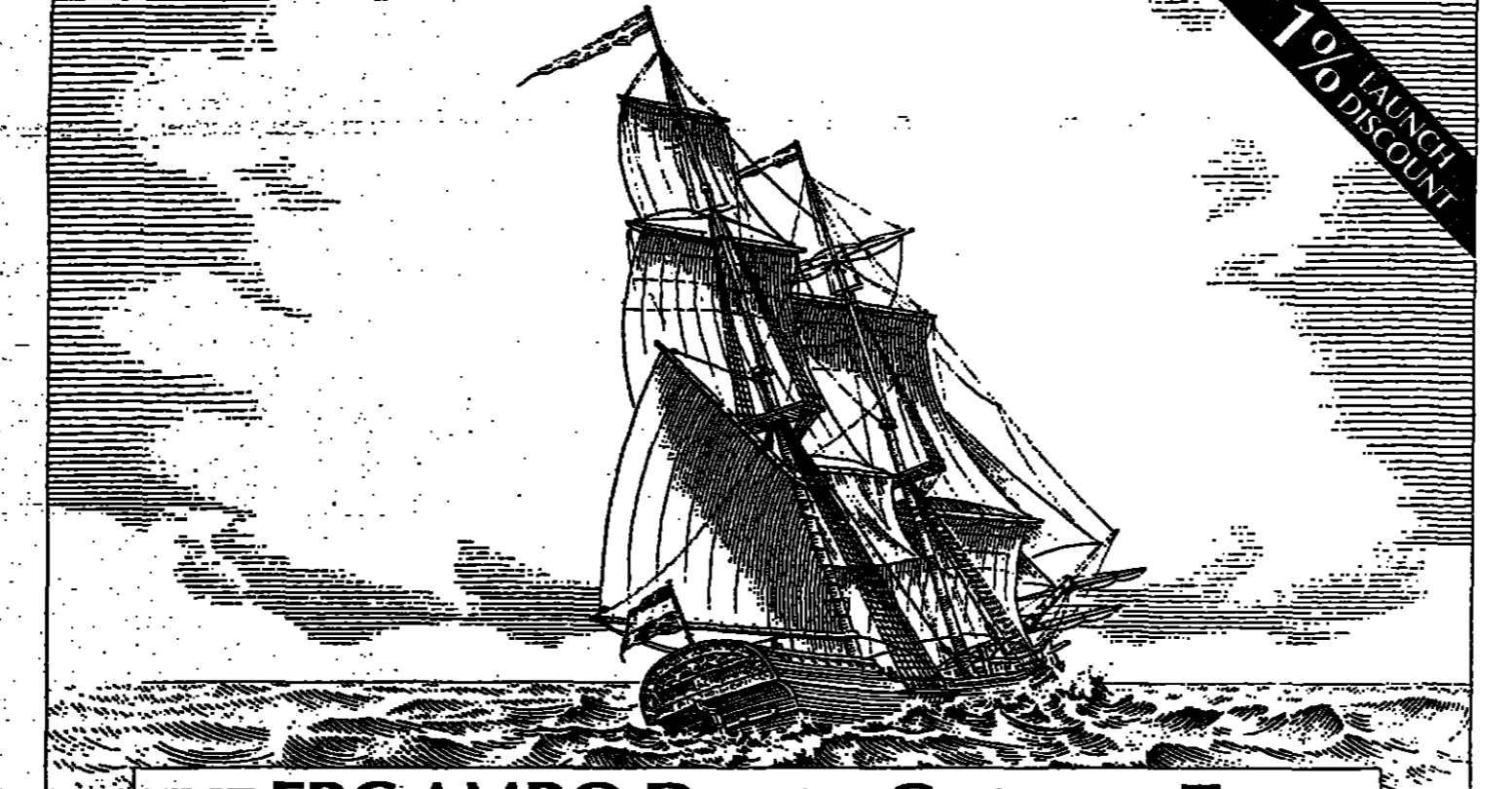
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YOUR GUIDE

To help you take advantage of them, EBC Amro Unit Trust Management Limited has launched the "EBC Amro Dutch Growth Trust".

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The Dutch economy is strong. It is estimated that GNP will rise by 2.5% during 1986 and industrial production will increase by 4%. In P/E terms, Holland is one of the cheapest markets in Europe. (See Graph).

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HOW TO INVEST

Complete the application form and send it together with your cheque made payable to EBC Amro Unit Trust Management Limited, c/o Manchester Unit Trust Administration Company Limited, FREEPOST, Manchester M2 8BL (No stamp required).

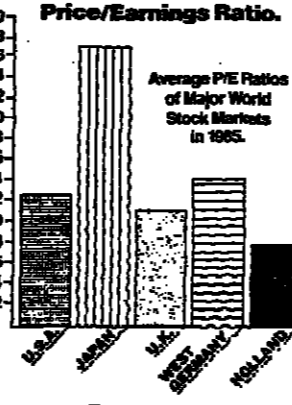
Remember, the price of units and the income from them, can go down as well as up.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Contract notes will not be issued for the initial offer but, thereafter, will usually be sent by return of post. You will receive a Unit Certificate within six weeks of the receipt of your cheque.

An initial charge of 5% is included in the price of the units and an annual charge of 1.25% (plus VAT) of the value of the fund is allowed for in the quoted yield.

Estimated gross current yield is 2.25% at the launch price of 50p. Managers reports on the fund will be issued on 15th February each year. Income will be distributed annually, net of basic rate tax on 15th February. Prices are quoted in the National Press Trustee Midland Bank Trust Company Limited. (Not open to residents in Eire.)



EBC AMRO DUTCH GROWTH TRUST

APPLICATION FORM

To: EBC Amro Unit Trust Management Limited, c/o Manchester Unit Trust Administration Company Limited, FREEPOST, Manchester M2 8BL

Mr/Ms/Ms/Other _____ Surname
First Names _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

I/We wish to invest £ _____ in units in the EBC Amro Dutch Growth Trust at the price ruling on receipt of this application (minimum investment 1500). Fixed price offer less 1% Discount applies until 24/3/86 1am/We are over 18

Please tick box if you require automatic reinvestment of distributions.

Please tick box if you require further information about the EBC Amro Dutch Growth Trust.

Signature _____ Date _____
Joint applications must use and attach names and addresses separately.

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WE GUARANTEE TO MAXIMISE YOUR INCOME

How?
* By advising you which investment gives the most income a man aged 65 with no life assurance could expect to receive 12 1/2% p.a. net guaranteed.
* By reducing your income tax bill many retired people lose out unnecessarily on the age allowance
* By making your capital grow to increase your income in the future.

Knight Williams has specialised for many years in identifying income investments for retired people. Send for full details.

Knight Williams

Independent financial advice.
33 Cork Street, London W1X 1HB. 01-409 0271.

Name _____
Address _____

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So much for the sideways glance, isn't it? Find a little more closely?

Just fill in the coupon below and we will be happy to provide you with full details.

1% bonus if you take out a plan before Budget Day, March 18th, 1986.

To: The Scottish Mutual Assurance Society
10th Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 3LN Tel: 01-228 5111

Please send me, without obligation, full details of your TAX FREE HALIFAX PENSION PLAN.

Name _____
Address _____
Date of birth _____
Age now _____ Planed Retirement Age _____
Profession/Adviser _____

Scottish Mutual Investments
Dependable Money Managers

"We regard Green Park Health Care as one of the best BES issues of 1985/86." *W Greenwell & Co Stockbrokers*



Green Park Health Care Plc.

Green Park Health Care Plc is establishing nursing homes, residential homes and day care facilities under a concept of co-ordinated care for the elderly.

- ★ Minimum non-underwritten subscription already achieved
- ★ Offer share price 100 per cent backed by net assets
- ★ Two important properties have been acquired
- ★ Experienced management & health care team
- ★ One establishment fully operational
- ★ Investment offer carries full BES tax relief for 1985/86

The minimum subscription having been well exceeded through private investors without underwriting support, the subscription list for the remaining balance of the original Offer of 1,700,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each at £1.15 per share, payable in full on application, will remain open until all the Ordinary shares are fully subscribed to or not later than noon on March 17, 1986.

To be sure of meeting the closing date of March 17, 1986 for this highly recommended BES offer, phone or post this coupon immediately for a copy of the Prospectus.

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Address _____

POINTON YORK LTD
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INCOME TAX RELIEF 1985/86

Edited by Lorna Bourke

FAMILY MONEY/1

Everyone is seeking solutions before the Chancellor makes life more difficult

Your last-minute purchases

THE BUDGET

Buy now while stocks last is the message to would-be investors in asset-backed Business Expansion Scheme companies because the general feeling is that the Chancellor, Nigel Lawson, will tighten up the rules for qualification in his Budget on March 18.

Players in the BES market believe that property-backed BES companies such as hotels and pubs may well be disqualified, so if you have money to put into these schemes and you want the security of bricks and mortar behind your investment, go for the likes of Lockton Inns (very similar to the highly successful Sunnyside Inns), Unicorn Inns, First Secured Hotels, Stagecoach Hotels, Southdowns Hotel, Branksome Court Homes and Saint Hotels (which has already received £1.8 million in the first nine days of the offer and sponsor Charles Fry is expecting to hit £7 million).

A full list of current BES companies on offer is on page 31 with details of some of the most recent issues.

"I think it will be quite difficult for the Chancellor to tighten up without cutting out quite a lot of legitimate schemes," commented Charles Fry of Johnson Fry, one of the biggest sponsors of BES companies.

"I suppose he could say that no more than 60 per cent of the money raised by a BES company could be tied up in property but if he says 'fixed assets', that would disqualify genuine manufacturing companies."

Mr Fry is hoping that the Chancellor will not tinker too much with the BES. Others are not so sanguine. The accountant Philip

Hardman, of Grant Thornton, believes the Chancellor may try to put the BES back on the footing the Treasury originally intended by introducing regulations which would stipulate how often stock is turned around. This would hit the wine and art schemes.

And it is difficult to believe that the Chancellor, having commissioned a mammoth report from auditors Peat Marwick Mitchell, on the way the BES is working, is just going to sit on it and do nothing.

"I think the BES scheme is ripe for change of some sort, a bit of tightening up," is the view of accountant David Tallon of Dearden Farrow.

"The problem is, if you attack asset-backed schemes, you also attack genuine companies, the sort the Chancellor wanted to help with the BES."

Mr Tallon believes the Chancellor is more concerned with the job creation aspect of BES companies and may well introduce a minimum number of jobs as a test of eligibility.

Stephen Say, at accountants



Charles Fry: BES hopes

in any Budget submissions this year," says Adrian Coles of the Building Societies Association. He is expecting no change on stamp duty, currently 1 per cent of purchase price on properties costing more than £50,000, and believes it would be political suicide for the Chancellor to tinker with mortgage interest tax relief.

He said: "We saw the problems the Chancellor had with the cutbacks in student grants and the attempt to impose fees on parents. Mortgage interest relief affects exactly the same market, so I can't see him doing anything here."

However, the building societies would not be best pleased if the Chancellor were to introduce some form of tax relief on small investments in shares - a rumour currently going the rounds which would certainly be in line with current government thinking. Cost in terms of lost tax

revenue might be the deciding factor here.

"It would depend on the terms of any scheme, but in the short term it would be bad news for us," confirms Mr Coles. "But we are not expecting any fireworks in this Budget."

However, stamp duty, currently 1 per cent on buying shares, is a favourite candidate for change with most pundits expecting the Chancellor to cut 0.5 per cent off the stamp duty bill. "I think this is a real possibility," says Mr Say. "It would be a step in the right direction with deregulation, and every little helps."

Clearly, if you are thinking of buying shares then it might pay to wait until after March 18 in case the Chancellor does cut stamp duty - and makes it immediately effective. Incidentally, if you are interested in bed and breakfasting your shares, see the article by Maggie Drummond on page 27.

No one, however, is expecting the Chancellor to cut stamp duty across the board.

Potential tax loss of £1,000m

Reducing it for house purchases would cost too much.

The widely expected improvements for charities would give donors full tax relief at their highest rate paid on donations to charity, not just those made under a deed of covenant as is now the case.

"I really hope he does look at this area of charities," said Mr Tallon. However, he thinks the *quid pro quo* might be a removal of tax relief on ordinary personal covenants, the sort that hundreds of thousands of hard-pressed parents use to maintain a

student offspring at university.

He says: "The Revenue doesn't like personal deeds and this might be the trade-off. 'Yes, Chancellor, I can hear them saying, let's do something for charities, but do away with the personal covenants'."

A rapidly rising amount of tax is lost to the Revenue by the increasing and apparently widespread use of covenants. It has been estimated that if 10 per cent of all parents eligible to covenant money to their offspring over the age of 18 and 10 per cent of grandparents eligible to covenant money to younger children were to do so, the potential tax loss to the Revenue could be more than £1,000 million a year.

Just in case the Chancellor decides to move here, it might be worthwhile getting in a covenant before the Budget - if you were thinking of doing one anyway. The end of the tax year is a good time to do this if you have student offspring as by then the student's earnings during the rest of the tax year are known and you can calculate precisely how much to covenant to take maximum advantage of the rules.

The Inland Revenue produces a form and instruction booklet which is available from tax offices. The Consumers' Association produces a covenant kit available at £4.95 from the Subscription Department, PO Box 44, Herrford SG4 1SH. Bourke Publishers produces a kit covering both student covenants and covenants written in trust for school fees and the like. This is available at £4.50 from Bourke Publishers, PO Box 109 London SW5 9JP.

Lorna Bourke

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£30	£3,600	£10,370
£50	£6,000	£17,283
£75	£9,000	£25,925
£100	£12,000	£34,567

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Daimler-Benz, Swiss Bank Corporation, Moët Hennessy, or Olivetti, are big names to the man in the street. And even bigger names to the investor in the know.

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markets are attracting more and more investors - both domestic and foreign.

The economies are improving, with inflation and interest rates under control.

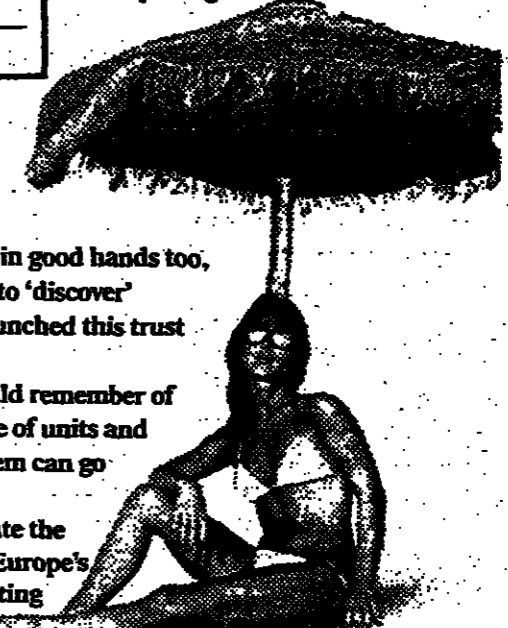
And company profits and productivity are both on their way up.

It's enough to give any investor a lift. And by investing monthly you win both ways.

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COUNTING THE PENNIES ... PESETAS ... CENTIMES ... LIRA

You can invest in Save & Prosper European Growth Fund from £20 a month or from £250 by completing the coupon.



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You'll be in good hands too, as we were the first to 'discover' Europe when we launched this trust 22 years ago.

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LIFE ASSURANCE

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ONCE A MONTH.

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Address _____

I/We enclose a cheque for £_____ to be invested in an APEX account. Please send further information

Signature(s) _____

National & Provincial

DETAILS YOU NEED TO KNOW

OBJECTIVE: To provide a portfolio invested in the shares of European companies.

PRICES AND YIELD: The offer price of units at 24.286 is 93p and the estimated gross yield is 9.97% p.a. These are quoted daily in leading national papers.

DEALING IN UNITS: Regular Savings Plan: We usually purchase units for you on the 15th day of each month at the offer price then remaining units are held on your behalf by Save & Prosper Securities Limited. Unit certificates are not issued to you. You can cash in your Plan at any time and receive the full value of your units normally within 7 days of our receiving your instructions. Alternatively, you can convert your investments into a lump-sum holding provided the value of the Plan exceeds £250. Lump-sum units may normally be bought or sold on any working day. Certificates will normally be forwarded within 14 days. When units are sold back to the Managers, payment is normally made within 7 days of our receiving your instructions.

NET INCOME DISTRIBUTIONS: 31st December each year. These are automatically reinvested in further units with a Regular Savings Plan. CHARGES: Initial charge 5% plus a rounding adjustment not exceeding the lower of 1% or 1.25p per unit, which is included in the offer price of units. Out of this, remuneration (at rates which are available on request) will be paid to authorised professional advisers. Annual Charge: 1% of value of Fund + VAT (with a permitted maximum of 1½% - Subject to 3 month's notice). This is deducted from the Fund's assets to meet Managers' expenses including Trustees' fees.

INVESTMENT POWERS: The Managers have created a supplemental trust deed enabling them to purchase and write traded options subject to the limitations laid down by the Department of Trade and Industry.

REGULAR SAVINGS PLAN PAYMENTS: Your monthly contributions to the Plan are made by Bankers. Order if you wish to change the amount of your contributions or cancel your Plan at any time, simply notify both your bank and Save & Prosper.

SAFEGUARDS: The Fund is authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. The Trustee is the Bank of Scotland.

MANAGERS: Save & Prosper Securities Limited, 1 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2JY. Telephone 01-588 1717. A member of the Unit Trust Association.

To: Save & Prosper Securities Limited, FREEPOST Romford, RM1 1BR. Telephone: FREE Moneyline 0800 282-101

I wish to invest £_____ (minimum £20 a month for first contribution to Regular Savings Plan or £250 lump sum) in Save & Prosper European Growth Fund. I enclose my cheque made payable to Save & Prosper Securities Limited and for Regular Savings Plan applications the completed Bankers' Order form. I am over 18.

Regular Savings Plan: Please invest sums received under the provisions of the Regular Savings Plan. I confirm that, in the event of my discontinuing contributions to my Plan before I have contributed at least £250 to European Growth Fund, the Managers have an irrevocable authority to repurchase, at the bid price then prevailing, any units already held by me under the Regular Savings Plan and to send me the proceeds.

Lump-sum investment: I would like income re-invested in further units. (delete if not applicable)

Full Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss) _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

Existing Account No. (if any) _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Adjusted Capital Incremental European Index 1.1.85 to 31.12.85.

BANKER'S ORDER TO: The Manager

Bank _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

Bank Sorting Code _____

Please pay the sum of £_____ on the 15th day of each month with further notice.

The first payment to be made on 7th _____ 1986

Debiting my Account No. _____

To: The Royal Bank of Scotland plc (15-10-007), City Office, 67 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3DL. Accounts No. 17276584

Signature _____ Date _____

012 European Growth Fund No. _____

EUROPEAN GROWTH FUND

SAVE & PROSPER

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FAMILY MONEY/2

A gain if you tread warily

SHARES

Bed and Breakfast - selling and repurchasing shares to establish a capital gain or loss before the end of the tax year - has been very much a minority sport among investors for the past few fiscal seasons, but now it is back in favour.

In the 1982 Budget it fell foul of the new index-linked capital gains tax arrangements and unintended side-effects of the ludicrously complex pooling rules. But the last Finance Act effectively restored the pre-1982 situation. Investors should give some thought to B&B before the beginning of April.

The basic principle is simple. It is a way of using your annual capital gains tax exemption (£5,900 in the current tax year, shared by a husband and wife) to reduce the eventual amount you will have to pay on your share or unit trust profits - without relinquishing your investment.

The Bed & Breakfasting ploy of selling the shares late one day and buying back early the next is cheaper than a normal Stock Exchange transaction because you pay only one lot of commission and no stamp duty. And in tax terms you will have established a real gain or loss.

Investors showing substantial profits - which must be just about everybody, except those unfortunate enough to

Cheaper options for unit holders

have invested in some of the specialist areas such as technology - are clear candidates for B&B.

For the annual capital gains tax exemption - the amount of profit you can realize in a tax year without paying a penny tax - cannot be rolled forward into the future. Investors with realized gains of more than £5,900 already can also reduce the tax liability by establishing losses on any bad performers in the portfolio which they want to retain for recovery.

But the understandable enthusiasm to keep as much money as possible out of the clutches of the tax man must be weighed against the cost of B&B.



Graham Mann of stockbrokers Grievson Grant says: "It's not worth doing if you only have a couple of thousand pounds profit, because you are likely to be within the annual exemption whenever you sell. And even if you have a large portfolio but it is split between lots of different shares, B&B could prove expensive."

Fred Carr of stockbrokers Capel Cure Myers takes a similar view: "Some investors are fanatical about avoiding tax. But you can end up running a stockbrokers' benevolent fund if you are not careful."

He also points out that index-linking of capital gains reduces taxable profits in any case. Inflation has been low. But even so the retail price index has clocked up an increase of about 21 per cent since March 1982.

What then is the cost of B&B? First there is the Stock Exchange commission of 1.65 per cent on that. Then there is the jobber's turn - the difference between the price at which you sell and the price at which you buy back the morning after. On a standard blue chip share it might be 1 per cent or less, depending on the amount. Apparently the jobbers want to make at least £25 out of every B&B transaction.

So it all adds up. For instance, doing a B&B on £5,000 worth of one share will cost around £120. For a

£10,000 bargain it could be £190. Next year, according to Mr Carr, it should be much cheaper. And already you can B&B cheaper elsewhere with firms other than stockbrokers. Licensed dealers Cleveland Securities are offering B&B to investors for a flat fee of £25 per deal on amounts of up to £50,000.

Cleveland's director Harvey Lawrence says: "We can still make profits on it at that level and investors who want us to B&B their shares for them will not get cold-called afterwards."

One reason why Cleveland can offer such a cheap service

Pay your money, take your choice

is that the shares spend the night on the licensed dealers' books and do not go through the stock market. Cleveland's legal advice was that this still constitutes an arm's length transaction for tax purposes although it says it cannot guarantee that the Inland Revenue will see things that way.

For ever since the Furniss and Dawson tax case, which gives the Revenue powers to pounce on a series of transactions that serve no business purpose other than the reduction or elimination of a tax liability, the City's investment parlours have been paranoid about what is and what is not an arm's length deal.

This is particularly relevant

when it comes to Bed and Breakfasting unit trusts. Tim Miller of Framlington says: "We've got to be very careful after Furniss and Dawson. We are offering investors who want to B&B the same sort of deal they could get if they were switching funds. They sell units to us one day at mid-price and buy units back the next at the offer price minus our normal 2.5 per cent discount on switching."

With a spread of around 6 per cent this means the transaction will cost around 3.5 per cent. That is £175 on a £5,000 deal, which is certainly not cheap.

But it is thought by most unit trust groups to be safe, although some are offering cheaper options for unit holders prepared to take a risk. Ken Emery of Save & Prosper says: "We are offering investors cheaper alternatives. They can sell their units to us at the bid price and buy them back for that same amount plus a flat fee of £20."

"But if people choose to B&B that way we can't give them any guarantee that the tax man won't turn round some time in the future and claim that it's not an arm's length transaction."

So you pay your money and you take your choice. My own guess would be the country's tax men are so snowed-under with a backlog of mail that they simply will not notice.

Maggie Drummond

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(Allied Arab Bank is registered in England, with its headquarters in the City of London, and is a fully recognised bank under the Banking Act, 1974.)

Terms and Conditions

(1) This account is available to private individuals (either resident or non-resident in the UK), clubs, associations, charities and professional firms, but excluding corporate investors. (2) A minimum deposit of £5,000 is required to open the account and the maximum balance that may be held on the account is £100,000. (3) The rate of interest will be displayed in our branches and will be paid on balances in excess of £2,000. (4) The balance of the account falls to £2,000 or less, the funds will attract an interest rate of 5% below the displayed rate. Any variation due to financial market conditions will become effective immediately, and investors will be advised by post. (5) For UK residents the interest will be credited after the deduction of Composite Rate Tax (CRT). (6) Providing a declaration of non-residency is received, the interest for non UK residents will be credited in full. (7) Interest will be calculated on a daily basis on cleared credit balances and paid monthly to the account or subject to the account holder's instructions, can be credited to another account at any bank in the UK. (8) Note: Should a balance fall below £2,000, the Bank reserves the right to credit the interest to the HIC account rather than to remit interest. (9) Statements will be sent quarterly. (10) Account holders are not permitted to overdraw. Items presented for payment when there are insufficient funds will be returned unpaid and a charge will be levied. (11) The Bank reserves the right to refuse a deposit or to decline to open an account or to require a depositor to close an account, without giving a reason for any such decision. (12) In the case of a joint account in the names of two or more people, the Bank has authority to debit the account with cheques signed by any one of the signatories or the account holders. Where an overdraft is created, the account holders are jointly and severally liable for the debt. (13) The Bank reserves the right to vary, amend or add to these terms and conditions subject to reasonable notice.

HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNT APPLICATION FORM: Please complete and post, with a minimum deposit of £5,000, to High Interest Cheque Account, Allied Arab Bank Limited, FREEPOST, London EC4B 4HS.

Application form fields including Full Name(s), Telephone No., Date of Birth, Occupation, and Resident/Non Resident checkboxes.

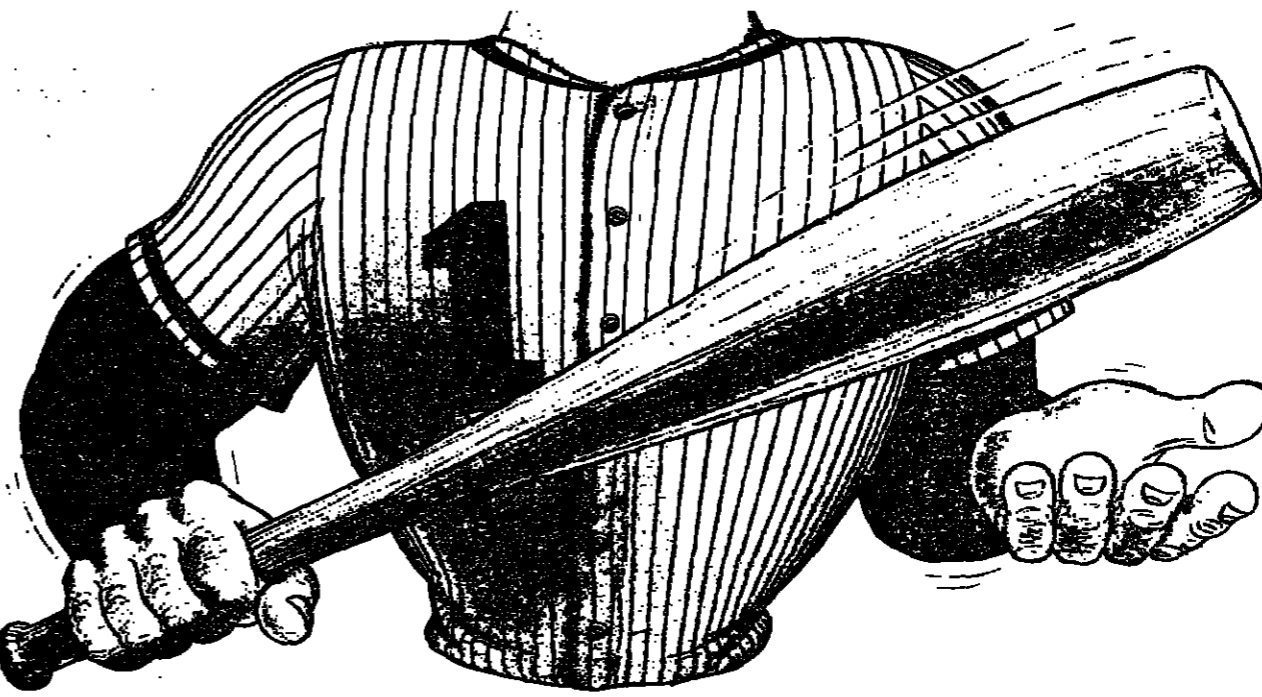
Please open a High Interest Cheque Account in my name(s) with the enclosed remittance of £5,000 (minimum £3,000) made payable to the Allied Arab Bank. I/We agree to abide by the terms and conditions as above applicable to the High Interest Cheque Account and acknowledge having read them.

Signed (1) _____ (2) _____

Title of Account (for cheque books) _____ Note: (1) All parties should sign the application form. (2) For accounts in the names of clubs and associations please forward a copy of the rules. (3) Additional formalities may be necessary. (4) If interest is to be credited to another UK banking account, advise us of bank address, sorting code number and account number.

Allied Arab Bank

Midshires Building Society advertisement for Premium 30 account. Features three interest rate signs: 90 Days (Most Building Societies), 60 Days (Few Building Societies), and 30 Days. Interest rates of 9.75% NET and 10% NET are shown. Includes application form and contact information.



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No we don't recommend the big stick. We recommend the grass roots. Take the USA for example. We've discovered that if you want to make bigger than average returns you have to move some of your investments off the beaten track. You have to know the successful local companies and be able to spot movements in demand at a local level. Our staff are locally placed to do just that. They live, work and go to baseball matches with the people who could affect your investment. That's one reason why our US Funds have been so successful. But it's only one. For that local knowledge has to be combined with experience and investment expertise before it can be used quickly and profitably. No-one in the City has more experience, expertise and solid success behind them than MIM. Which is why we can move so quickly, adventurously and safely for our investors. And not only in the US. But also in Japan, in Europe and in every market our trusts cover. If you'd like proof of how much harder our investment managers work, get in touch.



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FAMILY MONEY/3

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67/68 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9DF

The leaflet and the bulletin are essential reading for all serious and cost conscious investors

TAX RELIEF FOR 1985/6

This advertisement does not constitute an invitation to subscribe for shares.

ALLIANCE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLC

Offer for Subscription under the terms of the Business Expansion Scheme of up to 500,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each at £2 per share.

	PRE-TAX PROFIT (LOSS)
14 months to 31 March 1987	£200
Year to 31 March 1988	(20)
Year to 31 March 1989	312
	628

LANCASHIRE & YORKSHIRE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Sure and steady move in the unit-linked field

The men from Norwich Union do not quite have straw sticking out of their hair but they do pride themselves on moving slowly but surely through the insurance fields. Three years ago they decided to make a positive move on the unit-linked field - many years after this market had been pioneered by the likes of Abbey and Hambro Life (now Allied Dunbar). Since then, Norwich Union has had unit-linked products available but has not actively promoted them.

All that is about to change. Norwich Union has formed a separate company, Norwich Union Asset Management, to fire the public and insurance brokers with enthusiasm for its new range of products, all linked to its unit-linked funds.

But Norwich Union is still not acting hastily. Although the announcement of the change was made this week, the launch is not until June 2, so send no money now.

The new range of products linked to the unitized funds consists of pension plans, an endowment mortgage plan, which has been accepted by most building societies, investment plans (both lump sum and regular savings) and a capital investment bond. Investors will be able to choose from any of Norwich's range of 11 unitized funds.

The move by Norwich is doubly curious given that it is generally conceded, even by the life offices, that unit trusts are a more tax-efficient investment vehicle than unitized insurance company funds. And while the Pru, Clerical Medical and a host of other insurers have plunged into the unit trust field, Norwich Union is holding back. Its unit trusts will not be arriving for about a year.

Key is consistency

What any investor is looking for is consistently good performance rather than a fund manager who

doubles your money in six months and then proceeds to decimate it over the next year. So far as consistency is concerned, it is hard to beat the track record of fund managers Prolific. Over the four-year term, all seven of Prolific's trusts have outperformed the sector average - in the case of the Special Situations, North American and High Income trusts, by a significant amount. A £1,000 investment for example in Prolific's Special Situations Trust four years ago would be worth about £3,488 today compared with a sector average of only £2,170.

And for those looking for income the story is very similar. Investors who bought Prolific's High Income trust when it was launched in September 1974 would have an investment worth around £8,000 for every £1,000 originally invested. But more important, they would have received a rising income equivalent to 27.8 per cent net of basic rate tax last year, on the original investment. Full details from Prolific Unit Trusts, 222 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4JS (tel: 01-247 7545).

Overseas work

If the weather has not driven you abroad, then work and the prospects of a high tax free salary may do the trick. Working overseas for a period requires a considerable degree of organization both from a personal and financial point of view, says the introduction to Working Abroad, from accountants Arthur Andersen & Co. The book gives details on how best to arrange your affairs to minimise any tax liability - both capital and income taxes. There is also a chapter dealing specifically with the problems the self-employed encounter when working abroad.

Copies of the booklet can be obtained free from the Publications Department, Arthur Andersen & Co, 1 Surrey Street, London, WC2R 2PS (tel: 01-836 1200).

Cash catch

If you are a customer of NatWest Bank you will find that if you



try to cash a cheque in a Lloyds Bank branch you will now be charged a fee of 50p. Similarly, Lloyds Bank customers who cash cheques in NatWest branches will suffer a similar penalty. It is all part of the battle for new business, but will endear neither bank to its customers.

Public policy

Endsleigh, the insurance brokers who have built up such a good reputation in the student insurance area, are branching out and offering a range of policies to the general public. They include a range of discounts on household contents policies with a 10 per cent premium reduction if your house is part of a neighbourhood watch scheme, 15 per cent no-claims bonus (undoubtedly the most sensible way of deterring the fraudulent claims), 10 per cent discount to all retired householders and many professionals and a 15 per cent discount if you are prepared to pay the first £50 of each claim.

With any policy the discounts are only worth something if the premium is competitive in the first place. Endsleigh is charging as a basic premium without any discounts: £4.20 to £16.20. Even with discounts this is not exactly a snip at the top end of the scale. Details: Endsleigh Insurance Services, Endsleigh House, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 3NR (tel: Cheltenham 576578).

Price of retiring

If you can afford the staggering sum of £1,500 you can afford one of the two-day pre-retirement courses run by William Mercer-Grant Simmons, in conjunction with Choice magazine and the Pre-Retirement Association. At this sort of price the people who are most likely to have a profitable retirement look like the organizers. The course are aimed at employees who can, hopefully, persuade their employers to pay the hefty fee. Spouses are encouraged to attend but the fees do not include any accommodation at £1,000.

Subject matter covered includes general information on how to cope with leisure, health problems and where to retire. But the guts of the course concentrates on the financial aspects of retirement, what the state provides in the way of pension and benefits, company pensions, widow's benefits, budgeting and taxation. Details: William Mercer-Grant Simmons, Southampton Place, London, WC1A 8DA (tel: 01-405 4343).

Taking stock

In most industries there is a rule that dog does not eat dog. This seems to have been suspended in the cut-throat world of stockbroking. "Stockbrokers and other financial intermediaries could do a lot more to promote wider share ownership," says Nicholas Hunko of stockbrokers, Hoare Govett Financial Services Group. He revealed that Dealearcall, Hoare Govett's "no frills" stockbroking service has brought in nearly 5,000 new clients in the six months since it was launched. "I challenge any other firm to tell me they have put on more clients dealing in stocks and shares over the same period" he said.

He suggested that many potential investors, accustomed to taking a chance on the dogs or horses, could be attracted to making stock market investments - anathema to the Stock Exchange Council which has in the past been at pains to emphasize the "investment" angle

Guide to the maze

That perennial favourite, the Which? Tax Saving Guide, is available from the Consumers Association, again providing an easily understood guide to our tax maze, including how to save tax and how to fill the forms in. This year's highlights the fact that, such as a car, can be worth a lot more to you than a salary increase. "While it might cost your employer £3,000 a year to provide you with a company car, your tax bill might be only £246. If you receive a £3,000 pay rise the tax bill would normally be at least £900," says the guide.

The Guide is available at £3 to Which? subscribers. Which? is available on subscription from the Subscription Department, Consumers' Association, PO Box 44, Herford Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. SG9 5SH. A year's subscription costs £31.

Spring facelift

If you are thinking of re-decorating the kitchen this spring, you are in good company. According to market researchers, Mintel, almost two-thirds of the population plan to decorate the inside of their homes themselves within the next 12 months. Loans to pay for home decorations do not qualify for tax relief but the building society is still the cheapest place to borrow. Even at 13 per cent (with-out tax relief) it is still less than you would pay for an overdraft which works out at about 15 per cent, considerably cheaper than a personal loan at about 18 to 22 per cent, and an absolute steal compared with the rate you pay for credit card borrowing.

It's July 1

In our piece on bondwashing on February 22 we should have said that the provision allowing you to dispose of gifts free of Capital Gains Tax without having to wait 12 months carries into effect on July 1, 1986, not February 28.

Stock up on booze to beat the Budget

With ten days to go before the Chancellor delivers his Budget speech, wine shippers are advising buyers to purchase ahead to avoid likely increases in the excise duties.

The Treasury is well aware of the growth in wine sales in the UK. The latest world wine survey by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations reports that between 1975 and 1984 consumption of wine in the UK rose from 3.7 litres to 9.4 litres per head, although we have not caught up with either the French (84 litres) or Italians (80 litres).

An across the board revaluation by 5.5 per cent would yield about £785 million in a full year. This is not unattractive to the Chancellor since the impact on the RPI would be to raise it by less than half per cent.

For wine, bearing a duty of 68.6p on a typical 70cl bottle, it would mean a rise of 4.3p including VAT, yielding £30 million in a full year. Since the UK already taxes wine at over three times the rate to beer - the subject of an EEC Court case - it is unlikely that the Budget would distort the ratio further. Revaluation on a

pint of beer would take the 18.6p duty up by 1.2p, but falling sales may discourage going beyond 2p per pint.

London-based wine merchants Haynes Hanson and Clark's recommendations are typical of the advice to investors in their current newsletter. "It makes sense to buy pre-Budget". Sparkling wines are particularly likely to attract the Treasury eye, both on account of the much higher sales and since EEC harmonization on taxation has to date been directed at still wines. Sparkling wine clearances saw the

largest growth over the past 12 months: the moving annual total is up 12.1 per cent, by comparison with only 3.5 per cent on all wines.

Excise duty on sparkling wine is £14.56 per dozen bottles. Customs make no differentiation between champagne and other bubbly; only the VAT element rises on the final cost. Therefore, pre-Budget purchases particularly for Grande Marque Champagnes is recommended. At auction, larger size bottles of single vintages rather than non-vintage are most in demand.

The Wine and Spirit Association has made a strong attack on the duty levels on fortified wines like sherry and port, and on spirits. It does not accept the Treasury's view that sales are falling as a reflection of changing fashion and says overtaxation, resulting in a decline in real revenues, is the actuality.

Revaluation on a spirit would take the present £4.73 per bottle up 29.5p, yielding an attractive £40-million in a full year. Yet this level may be reduced on account particularly of the depressed state of the Scotch whisky industry.

Light wines from Spain and Portugal, following EEC entry, are likely to come down in duty.

B.E.S. TAX RELIEF 1985/86

FREW MACKENZIE P.L.C.
Antiquarian and Rare Books

OFFER FOR SUBSCRIPTION OF UP TO 1,000,000 SHARES

The first public company specialising in the trading of antiquarian books is pleased to announce the opening of its new shop premises at 106 Great Russell Street, London WC1.

- MINIMUM SUBSCRIPTION EXCEEDED. The offer remains open until at latest 5th April 1986.
- Visitors welcome to new shop premises to view the current antiquarian book stocks.
- Trading commenced 24th December 1985 - B.E.S. certificates should be available by end April 1986.

For copies of the prospectus and application form please fill in the form below or phone 0272 20051.

To: Stock Beech and Co. (Stockbrokers), Bristol and West Building, Broad Quay, Bristol BS1 4DD (Telephone: 0272 20051)

FREW MACKENZIE P.L.C.

Name _____
Address _____

This advertisement does not constitute an offer to subscribe for shares which offer is only on the terms contained in the prospectus.

Conal Gregory

1985 & 1986 Observer Small Unit Trust Group

Vanguard A Double First!

1985 Money Management Small Unit Trust Group

For the second year running, Vanguard Trust Managers won the Observer "Small Unit Trust Group of the Year" Award. The average gain of our four funds was 36.7% - better than all other unit trust groups.

A contributory factor was the performance of Vanguard Special Situations Trust, the only Unit Trust to have been one of the ten best performing UK Growth funds over the last one, three, five and seven years.

Short term performance is often a fluke - long term performance is not.

A Proven Performance Record

Over one, three, five and seven year periods, the trust is among the Ten best performing U.K. Growth Funds*, registering gains of 32.6%, 170.3%, 319.7% and 411.9% respectively. No other U.K. Growth Fund has managed to perform so consistently.

*Money Management figures to 1st February 1986. Offer to bid, including net reinvested income.

Investment Objectives

The investment policy of this Trust is to provide capital growth from an actively managed portfolio consisting of shares of smaller companies and carefully selected special situations.

These could be companies that have fallen on bad times, but are now turning round; they could be companies that look ripe for a take-over or perhaps companies with new, innovative products.

We also have the power to invest up to 25% of the Trust in USM stocks, as well as in traded options in accordance with the guidelines set by the Department of Trade.

You should remember that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

An Envious Pedigree

Vanguard Trust Managers is the wholly owned subsidiary of stockbrokers Capel-Cure Myers, one of the City's most quoted and authoritative sources on investment topics. They currently look after over £1 billion of funds on behalf of institutional, private and pension fund clients. Since 1985 they have been a member of the ANZ Group, a major international bank with a worldwide network of offices and with balance sheet footings exceeding US\$30 billion.

Act Now

To invest in this Trust, please complete this application form and send it to the Managers. For your guidance only, the offer price* of units on 6th March 1986 was 39.9p per unit. The Estimated Current Gross Yield is 2.86%pa.

*9 for 1 unit of units on 2 January 1986.

To: Vanguard Trust Managers Ltd, 65 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1A 2EU, Telephone 01-236 3053.

I/We wish to invest (minimum £500) £ _____ in the Vanguard Special Situations Trust at the offer price ruling on receipt of my application. A cheque is enclosed, made payable to Vanguard Trust Managers Ltd.

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss) _____
BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE
First Names (in full) _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Upon receipt of your application form a contract note will be sent, followed by a certificate in 28 days. Unit prices and yields are quoted in the Financial Times. Units can be sold back to the Managers at not less than the minimum bid price calculated to a formula approved by the Department of Trade. The Trust is authorised by the Department of Trade and constituted by a Deed dated March 1974 (see notes). An initial charge of 5% is included in the offer price of units, from which remuneration is payable to qualified intermediaries at rates available on request. The annual charge is set at 4.5% plus VAT of the value of the Trust (expressed to a maximum of 1% permitted in the Deed). This is deducted from the gross income and is allowed for in the current gross yield. Distributions will be paid twice yearly at the end of February and August.

Trustees: ICA, Bank of Scotland plc, F17 Old Broad Street, London EC2.

Managers: Vanguard Trust Managers Limited, 65 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1A 2EU, telephone: 01-236-3053. Member of the Unit Trust Association. This offer is not available to residents of Eire.

INCOME TAX RELIEF IN 1985/86

TIME IS SHORT

LOCKTON INNS plc

Sponsored by Guinness Mahon & Co. Limited

- Minimum subscription SUBSTANTIALLY EXCEEDED and successful issue assured. Share certificates to be posted before the Budget.
- Action by Chancellor on property backed issues widely predicted. This is probably your last chance to invest in such an issue.
- NO "GOLDEN" SHARES - 100% OF THE INCREASE IN COMPANY'S VALUE ACCRUES TO ORDINARY SHAREHOLDERS.
- Outstanding, highly experienced Board - proven record of success in public companies and in this business.
- Loans up to 100% available.
- If you already have a copy of the prospectus for Lockton Inns - WELL DONE. BUT TIME IS SHORT. APPLY NOW.
- If you do not have a copy - don't worry, but don't delay. Ring 01-623 9333 NOW - 24 HOUR SERVICE.

This advertisement does not constitute an invitation to subscribe for shares.

FAMILY MONEY/4

Home payment abroad

You are considering working abroad for a time but are you wondering whether, during your time out of the country, you can escape paying ever-growing National Insurance contributions? On the other hand, do you worry about the effect a spell abroad could have on your old age pension?

It is not easy to escape paying National Insurance contributions. Generally, so long as you still work for a UK employer, you have to pay - for the first year overseas, anyway. The main exception can be if you are in another EEC country.

The detailed position is complicated. First, if you go abroad temporarily to work for a UK employer (unless in an EEC country, or a few others covered by special arrangements) you have to pay contributions just as if you were at home. This lasts for the first year overseas. It applies if you are "ordinarily resident" in the UK and were living here immediately before your overseas job started.

The Department of Health and Social Security does not have an exact definition of "ordinarily resident" here, but says that if you intend to return to live here within three years it is automatically ac-

cepted that you are "ordinarily resident".

If you intend to stay abroad for more than three years a DHSS decision has to be taken on your case. To enable it to decide, the DHSS will want to know how long you intend to be abroad, whether you are keeping a home in the UK and what you are doing with your furniture.

After the first 52-week period you no longer have to pay National Insurance, but you must then consider whether you want a full old age pension or not. If you do, you can pay contributions voluntarily towards this.

If your employer sends you to work in an EEC country, and you do not expect to be there for more than a year, you keep on paying your normal National Insurance contributions.

If, on the other hand, you know from the outset that your job in the EEC is going to last for more than a year, or you go to work for an employer not based in the UK, right from the start you pay into the social security scheme of the country in which you are working.

As in the EEC, special rules apply if you go abroad to work in one of the countries with which the UK has a special

agreement. The rules vary, but you will usually have to pay contributions either to one or the other country's social security set-up.

What all this means is that you will not easily escape paying National Insurance contributions. One way of doing so is to work for an overseas employer right from the start. You do not then have to pay any contributions here, unless that employer also has a place of business in the UK.

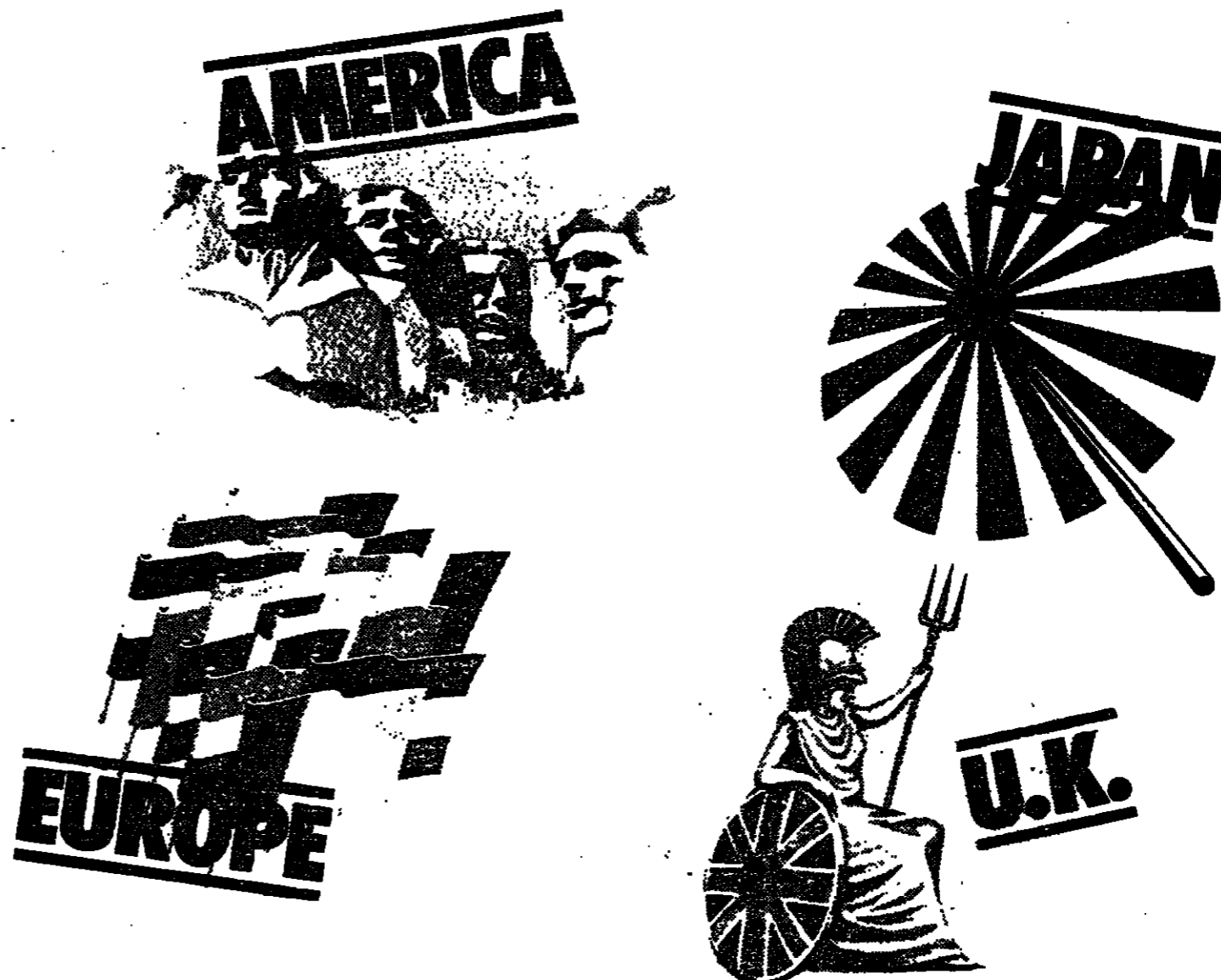
The position of self-employed people is different. They do not have to pay any British flat-rate (class 2) contributions while working abroad. If they are not treated as living in the UK for income tax purposes, the class 4 levy does not have to be paid either. Nevertheless, by paying contributions when you are abroad, you keep your entitlement to state benefits when you return.

It could in the long term mean the difference between a full pension and a smaller one.

Information about payment of contributions while overseas is given in the DHSS leaflet *National Insurance Guidance for People Abroad* (NI 38), which can be obtained from DHSS offices.

Joan Ferguson

**CLERICAL MEDICAL.
FOR THE
SERIOUS INVESTOR.**



**FIRST PUBLIC OFFER:
FOUR UNIT TRUSTS TARGETED ON THE
WORLD'S PREMIER STOCKMARKETS.**

The launch of four new trusts from Clerical Medical brings closer to every investor the opportunities of Europe, America, Japan and the United Kingdom.

Complementing our existing range of trusts, they will ensure wider access to the consistency, strength and experience of Clerical Medical investment management.

Now, you have a dependable guide in every significant world market.

NEW AMERICAN GROWTH TRUST

The aim of the Trust is to provide long-term growth in assets through stockmarket investment in North America, largely in the United States.

The Managers currently place emphasis on the more cyclical industries such as electronics, technology, chemicals and paper, although less cyclical areas such as specialty retailers are also seen as likely to provide good growth opportunities. The portfolio is, however, kept constantly under review and the Managers adopt an active approach in keeping with developing market trends.

NEW EUROPEAN GROWTH TRUST

The Trust invests in securities of European domiciled companies selected for their potential to provide above average returns. The Trust will not invest in companies domiciled in the United Kingdom.

The Managers will put an emphasis on stocks which have the best growth prospects, and it is probable that investment will be concentrated in the economically stronger countries, like Germany, Holland, France and Switzerland. However, the portfolio will be kept constantly under review, and special situations in other European countries will be monitored and advantage taken of any good opportunities for investment.

The Trust has the power to invest in the French Second Marché.

NEW JAPAN GROWTH TRUST

The Trust invests in securities of companies domiciled in Japan, selected for their potential to produce above average returns. Current income will not be an important consideration in the selection of such equities.

The Managers will select a wide variety of Japanese securities in order to participate not only in the fundamental long-term strength that exists in Japan's dominant technology-based industries, but also in those which offer exposure to improvements in the domestic sectors of the economy.

The Trust has the power to invest in the Tokyo Over-the-Counter Market.

Estimated gross initial yield 2.0%. Distribution 15th August

NEW GILT AND FIXED INTEREST INCOME TRUST

The Trust aims to produce a high return combining both income and capital growth from an actively managed portfolio of British Government Securities and other fixed interest securities.

While gilts will be the principal form of investment, other good quality sterling fixed interest stocks will be considered. Stocks will be chosen to provide a high total return after tax, and by adopting an active policy of switching between different maturity groups to benefit from changes in the shape of the yield curve, these returns should be enhanced.

Estimated gross initial yield 10.5%. Distribution - see General Information.

ESTABLISHED PERFORMANCE

Two of the existing range of trusts, designed to produce maximum income and/or growth from United Kingdom equities, have already demonstrated the strength of Clerical Medical investment management. The percentage change in offer price for the period 1.11.84 - 26.2.86 has been as follows:

EQUITY HIGH INCOME TRUST - aiming for above average and growing income with prospects of capital growth + 58%.

GENERAL EQUITY TRUST - aiming for above average returns from a portfolio of United Kingdom quoted equities + 48%.

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Clerical Medical Unit Trust Managers Limited is a subsidiary of Clerical Medical, a mutual society to which clients have safely entrusted their money for over 160 years. Indeed, since 1824, the Society has paid bonuses to with-profits policyholders without break. Our philosophy is to seek above average long term growth, not to the exclusion of short term performance, but to create the emphasis which we believe to be most appropriate to the needs of our investors. Funds under management now approach £3,000 million.

INVESTING FOR SUCCESS

Today, and until close of business on March 21st 1986, all eight Clerical Medical trusts are on offer with a 1% bonus allocation of units, enabling you to invest in your chosen market on favourable terms.

There is also a 25p fixed offer price for the four new trusts. This fixed offer may be closed early at the discretion of the Managers.

Minimum investment in any one fund is £500 and you can invest either by post, using the coupon, or by telephoning, using our free Linkline telephone service direct to our dealing department.

Remember that the price of units, and the income from them, may go down as well as up. You should look upon your investment as long term.

SHARE EXCHANGE

If you have stockmarket investments to sell, these can generally be exchanged for units in Clerical Medical Trusts, in many cases with a worthwhile saving on costs. Return the coupon for details.

REGULAR SAVINGS

You can build capital in Clerical Medical units through regular monthly savings of £25 or more. Our Unit Trust Savings Plan enables you to invest in any of the full range of 8 trusts with attractive Bonus Allocations of units for long term savers. Return the coupon for details.

HOW TO INVEST

Minimum initial investment in the fund is £500 but thereafter you can add amounts of £250 upwards to your holding.

By Telephone - Units can be bought by telephoning the Managers' Dealing line (Free Linkline 0800 373393). Settlement will be required on receipt of the Contract Note.

By Post - Units can be bought by sending a completed application form and cheque to the Managers. Units will be allocated at the price applicable on the day the application is received.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Unit Prices and Selling Units - The prices of units and yields are published daily in The Times, Financial Times and Daily Telegraph. If you wish to sell your units, simply complete the endorsement on the back of your Certificate and return it to the Managers. You will receive the full Bid Value of your units on the day your Certificate reaches us and a cheque will normally be issued within seven working days of receipt of the Unit Certificate.

Charges - An annual charge is included in the Offer Price of the units, and a monthly charge plus VAT of the value of the units is deducted from the Trust to meet the expenses of the Trustees and Managers.

Initial Charge	Monthly Charge	Maximum Initial Charge	Maximum Monthly Charge	Type of Units
£500	£25	£500	£25	Accumulation
£500	£25	£500	£25	Distribution

Note: These charges will not be increased without 3 months' written notice.

Accumulation Units - Income is automatically reinvested and reflected in the Unit Price. Once a year Unitholders will receive a tax voucher for the income they are deemed to have received.

Distribution Units - Distribution of income net of basic rate tax from the Clerical Medical Gilt and Fixed Interest Income Trust will be on 15 August, 15 November, 15 February, and 15 May each year, commencing 15 August 1986.

Further Information - Units may be bought at the current day price after the fixed price offer closes. The fixed price offer may be closed early at the discretion of the Managers. Remittance may be paid to qualified intermediaries and rates are available on request.

Contract Notes and Certificates - Contract Notes will be issued on receipt of full instructions. Unit Certificates will normally be issued within 15 working days of receipt of payment.

Managers - Clerical Medical Unit Trust Managers Limited, Nassau Place, Bristol BS2 0AB.

Registered Office - 15 St James's Square, London SW1A 4QJ.

Registered No. 1835691

Trustees - Midland Bank Trust Companies Limited.

119 Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1AQ

ACT NOW 14 DAYS LEFT TO SECURE BONUS UNITS

To: Clerical Medical Unit Trust Managers Limited, FREEPOST BS2001, BRISTOL BS2 0AB. I enclose a cheque made payable to Clerical Medical Unit Trust Managers Limited for £ _____ minimum £500 per trust

Clerical Medical American Growth Trust	Clerical Medical European Growth Trust	Clerical Medical Japan Growth Trust	Clerical Medical Gilt and Fixed Interest Income Trust
--	--	-------------------------------------	---

The price up to March 21st 1986 will be 25p. After March 21st 1986 the ruling price will be applicable. Please send me details of the Trust Savings Plan. Name: _____

Surname Mr Mrs Miss
 Title _____
 Full Postcodes
 Address _____
 Postcode _____
 Date _____
 Signature _____

**INVESTING BY PHONE
LINKLINE
CLERICAL MEDICAL
0800 373393**
 Monday - Friday 9 am - 6 pm Saturday 10 am - 4 pm

**Invest £2,000 and save up to
£1,200 on this year's tax bill.**

Hoare Octagon's latest Information Industries Fund offers higher-rate taxpayers an opportunity of achieving long-term capital growth.

Since it is an Inland Revenue approved Business Expansion Scheme investors start on very advantageous terms - thanks to tax relief at the highest rate they pay on investments of up to £40,000. A 60% tax payer making the minimum investment of £2,000 therefore qualifies for tax relief of £1,200.

But this is only the beginning. Uniquely among BES funds the Hoare Octagon investment strategy is to concentrate specifically on companies in the information industries - a business sector with particularly good growth prospects.

The prospects are further enhanced by the fact that the fund will be investing in unquoted companies and new ventures carefully selected by an investment management team with practical knowledge and experience of the sector.

The fund therefore offers the possibility of excellent capital growth over a period of five to seven years. Applications to subscribe to the Fund will only be accepted on the terms and conditions set out in the memorandum describing the Fund and the application form, a copy of which can be obtained by simply returning the coupon below or telephoning 01-408 0828. You need to act quickly since the fund closes for subscription on 26 March.

To: Hoare Govett Limited, Heron House, 319-325 High Holborn, London WC1V 7TH.
 Please forward full details of the Hoare Octagon Information Industries Fund 1985 Part II.

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 TELEPHONE _____ T8 J

managed by **HOARE GOVETT**
 members of the Stock Exchange

Investment in unquoted companies carries higher risks as well as the chance of higher rewards. The existence of these risks is one reason why tax reliefs are available in connection with investment through the Fund.

BUSINESS EXPANSION SCHEME

HONEYGLEN ASSURED CONSTRUCTION PLC
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**Offer for Subscription - Sponsored by
Chancery Securities PLC**
 (Licensed Dealers in Securities)

**of up to 2,500,000 Ordinary Shares of 75p each
at £1 per share**

London residential developers will be the main clients of this building company which offers deferred payment terms. This will assist developer clients' cashflow and payment will not be due until after the property is complete. Such debts will be secured, normally by a mortgage over land and buildings. John D. Wood are Consultant Surveyors and Valuers.

Over 20% p.a. pre-tax return is anticipated on shareholders' funds used to finance deferred payment building contracts.

Tax Relief - The Company began trading in July 1985. Investors should receive their tax relief certificates without delay.

The Management Team have considerable experience in property development and building. They only share in net asset growth after the first 61% increase. This is more beneficial for shareholders than in several other BES offers.

65% loan facility - appropriate subscribers need send a cheque for only 35% of their investment (plus documentation fee).

INITIAL ALLOTMENTS BY TUESDAY 18th MARCH 1986 - BUDGET DAY.

Subscribers can decide in which tax year they wish to invest as the final closing date is 30th April 1986.

This advertisement does not constitute an invitation to subscribe for shares.

To: Chancery Securities PLC, 12 Northampton Street, London WC1N 2NW
 Telephone: 01-242 2563

Please send me a copy of the Prospectus of Honeyglen Assured Construction PLC.

Name _____
 Address _____

T83 861

CLERICAL MEDICAL UNIT TRUSTS

CONSISTENCY STRENGTH EXPERIENCE

Member of the Unit Trust Association
 A wholly owned subsidiary of Clerical Medical and a member of the Assurance Society. Nassau Place Bristol BS2 0AB Telephone 01-408 0828

HIGHER INTEREST RATES

30 DAY SHARE Maximum Investment £500
 9-15% = 9-36% = 13-37%
Net Gross

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Portsmouth Building Society
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 Telephone (0705) 693311

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FREE COPY OF INFLUENTIAL UNIT INVESTOR NEWSLETTER

HARGREAVES LANSDOWNE
 Unit Trust Advisory Service
 Embassy House, Cavers Ave
 Clifton, Bristol BS8 1BB

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
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BES SUCCESS

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 Minimum £1.5 million exceeded

CITY AND CAPITAL HOTELS plc
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SAINT HOTELS plc
 Minimum £1.5 million exceeded

All offers remain open until March 14th

For a Prospectus telephone:
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 (Financial Director of Securities - Member of NASDPM)

Did YOU know that 16 of the top 20 best performing shares of 1985 were all 'PENNY' Shares!

... and that every single one, bar one, had been recommended in the Penny Share Guide

Of course, past achievement is no guarantee for future success, but we have said it before on many occasions, that there is a 'definite logic' to 'penny' shares... the very fact that they are so low means that they often quite literally have only one way to go and that's up. The downside is strictly limited but the upside is almost literally infinite as Wira & Pledge, last year's PSE winner (+750%) decisively proved, following in a tradition set by the likes of Polly Peck and Pentland Industries, which in point of fact were, at their peak, up many thousands of per cent. You might also be interested to know that none of the worst performing shares of the year in either the large company category or the small (source: Daily Telegraph) had been recommended in PSE, so it's by no means a scattergun approach. Serious research does pay off. If that's what you're interested in for 1986, just drop us a line today, you could find yourself joining one of our subscribers who turned £2,486 into £37,988 in 4 1/2 years... in 'penny' shares!

To: The Penny Share Guide Ltd, 3 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1AU
 Yes, please send me FREE details on 'Penny' Shares and the 'Penny Share Guide'... today. TS 3
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FAMILY MONEY/5

Fowler decision forces students to live at home

Students will be particularly badly hit under the social security reforms proposed in the White Paper published by the Social Services Secretary Norman Fowler last December.

Grants have been heavily cut during the past six years - since 1979 the real value of the grant has fallen by 20 per cent and during the same period the parental contribution has increased by 170 per cent. The minimum grant has been abolished, leaving parents whose assessable income amounts to more than £17,000 to make a contribution equivalent to that of a full local education authority grant.

Parents whose income balance is less than this pay a proportion of the grant determined by a means-testing scheme. Only those whose assessable income amounts to less than £8,100 make no contribution at all.

The full grant amounts to £2,165 if the student is living away from home in London and £1,830 elsewhere. Those living in the parental home should get £1,480. Mr Fowler has announced a 2 per cent increase in these rates - a figure well below the Government's estimated inflation rate of 5.5 per cent.

These grants are still totally inadequate for the purposes for which they are intended. Nevertheless, students have until now offset some of their financial problems by claiming housing and supplementary benefit during vacations. This will no longer be possible under the new proposals.

The following changes have been announced:

- From academic year 1986-87, entitlement to housing and supplementary benefits will be withdrawn for short vacations (Christmas and Easter).
- From the same period,

COLLEGE COSTS

housing benefit will be withdrawn for students in halls of residence. This applies to many first-year students who are obliged to live in halls.

Changes to the rules for housing benefit will be made in time for the coming summer vacation. Details of this are unavailable.

All students will lose all benefits by academic year 1987-88. After this date they will be expected to stretch their grants over the whole year, thereby losing potential benefits of about £1,100 in London and £840 elsewhere if they maintain year-round accommodation.

As compensation, the Government is planning an annual flat-rate payment of £36 - this will, however, be means-tested in the same way as the parental contribution.

The consequences of these cuts will inevitably be catastrophic for students. Jill Harris, student welfare officer at Liverpool University, says: "Students don't get enough money anyway - 40 per cent of them don't even get the full parental contribution. It's going to be very hard to remain a student if you're studying away from home."

It seems likely that many students will be forced to return home for vacations, as it will be cheaper for parents than having to give extra cash for rent and food. There are serious disadvantages:

- It will hinder essential vacation studies, particularly important for final-year students.
- Many parents will find the supporting of a son or daughter for 20 weeks a year a great financial burden.
- Jill Harris says: "These cuts are going to deprive students of one of the most important aspects of further education, that of a complete change of environment and the development of a sense of independence. People will be forced to go to universities and colleges in or near their home towns. Students in Liverpool and other northern university cities and towns are fortunate in that accommodation is cheap and relatively easy to come by. Ben Whitney, a photography student at Salisbury College of Art, is in no doubt as to the effect of the cuts: "I'd have to leave. I'm paying £30 a week rent, of which I get a rebate of £9 from the local council. I can only just manage."
- The problem of maintaining year-round accommodation is accentuated by the fact that many landlords require a retainer to secure flats over the summer if they are going to be empty for any length of time. This may amount to £200 in the provinces and closer to £300 in London.
- With no way of recouping this money in housing benefit during the summer, most students will have to wait until the start of term to find somewhere to live. The ensuing rush will pave the way for the more unscrupulous landlords, of whom there are plenty throughout the coun-



Jill Harris: 'Students are being deprived'

try, to exploit those who may have no other options.

The only way out is either to find work or to find a bank loan. At the moment, temporary jobs are scarce throughout the country, and the situation will undoubtedly worsen drastically when the cuts are implemented.

Some areas will fare better than others - in London, for example, there are far more jobs than in Liverpool or Birmingham, both notorious for their unemployment problems.

The banks have recently been subject to some criticism for excessive lending to students. Is their policy likely to change in view of the impending cuts?

According to a Barclays spokesman, apparently not: "Our attitude towards students remains unchanged, and we will continue to provide a sympathetic approach in caring for their needs." Similar sentiments were expressed by National Westminster. Midland was still examining its policy, at the time of writing.

Sean Geer

FRAMLINGTON

EUROPEAN FUND

A New Unit Trust Aiming for All-Out Capital Growth

Framlington European Fund aims for maximum capital growth through investment in shares quoted on the principal European stock markets.

Europe is now one of the most popular areas for investment. But it is a diverse and complex market: for investment success strong links with the continent are highly desirable. Our own were completed on 19 December with a subscription by Crédit Commercial de France into Framlington Group plc, enabling us to combine CCF's expertise and knowledge of the European market with our own eminently effective approach to long term capital growth.

THE FRAMLINGTON APPROACH

Our special style is to concentrate on smaller companies and try to identify those with really good growth prospects before the rest of the market recognises their promise, aiming for exceptional capital growth performance.

The results of this have been good, especially over the long term.

OUR RECORD

The two previous Framlington funds which have most closely followed this approach have been Capital Trust, investing in UK shares; and American and General Fund, investing in the U.S.A. Both have done well.

Over the ten years to 1st January Framlington Capital Trust was the best performing of all the 271 unit trusts monitored by *Planned Savings* over the period. It turned an original investment of £1,000 into £11,462.

Over seven years, our American & General Fund (started 1978) was the second best performing unit trust out of the 26 investing in North American shares. It turned £1,000 into £4,339.

OUR EUROPEAN LINK

The manager of Framlington European Fund is Philippe Hérald, who has been seconded from CCF for the purpose. He is our link into CCF's research, while working in London with the other Framlington fund managers.

The fund will have an emphasis on smaller companies: it is, for example, authorised to invest in the French *Second Marché*. We are

currently investing in the following proportions:

France	30 per cent
Germany	30 per cent
Holland	15 per cent
Italy	10 per cent
Switzerland	8 per cent
Austria, Belgium, Scandinavia, Spain	7 per cent

The fund has powers to invest in Britain but will not do so initially.

LUMP SUM INVESTMENT

You can make a lump sum investment simply by completing the form below and sending it to us with your cheque. Units are allocated at the price ruling when we receive your order. The minimum investment for a lump sum is £500. There is a discount of 1 per cent for investments of £10,000 or more.

MONTHLY SAVINGS PLAN

Starting a monthly savings plan is equally easy. The minimum is £20 per month, with a discount of 1 per cent for contributions of £100 or more. Accumulation units are used and are allocated at the price ruling on the 5th of each month. To start your plan, complete the application and send it with your cheque for the first contribution. Subsequent contributions are by the direct debit mandate which we shall send to you for your signature.

Investors should regard all unit trust investment as long term. They are reminded that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

On 17th February the price of both income and accumulation units was 50.0p. The estimated gross yield was 1.00 per cent.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Applications will be acknowledged; certificates for lump-sum investments will be sent by the registrars, Lloyds Bank Plc, normally within 42 days.

The minimum initial investment is £500. Units may be bought and sold daily. Prices and yields will be published daily in leading newspapers. When units are sold back to the managers payment is normally made within 7 days of receipt of the renounced certificate. Savings plans can be cashed in at any time.

Income net of basic rate tax is distributed to holders of income units annually on 15 July. The first distribution will be on 15 July 1987.

The annual charge is 1% (+VAT) of the value of the fund. The initial charge, which is included in the offer price, is 5%.

Commission is paid to qualified intermediaries at the rate of 1.4% (plus VAT). Commission is not paid on savings plans.

The trust is an authorised unit trust constituted by Trust Deed. It ranks as a wider range security under the Trustee Investments Act, 1961. The Trustee is Lloyds Bank Plc. The managers are Framlington Unit Management Limited, 3 London Wall Buildings, London EC2M 3NQ. Telephone 01-628 5181. Telex 8812599. Registered in England No 895241. Member of the Unit Trust Association.

This offer is not open to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

TO: FRAMLINGTON UNIT MANAGEMENT LIMITED, 3 LONDON WALL BUILDINGS, LONDON EC2M 3NQ

I wish to invest _____ in Framlington European Fund (minimum £500)

I enclose my cheque payable to Framlington Unit Management Limited, I am over 18. For accumulation units in which income is reinvested, tick here

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Title) _____

Full first name(s) _____

Address _____

Signature _____ Date _____

(Joint applicants should all sign and if necessary give details separately)

FRAMLINGTON

INCOME TAX RELIEF 1985/86

SUNHILL GROUP PLC

Sunhill Group PLC operates 2 nursing homes providing high class accommodation and care for elderly, infirm, chronically ill and convalescent patients.

- ★ Offer: Share Price 90 per cent backed by net tangible assets.
- ★ Proven operating profit record.
- ★ Over 90 per cent occupancy levels are being achieved.
- ★ Experienced, committed and successful management.
- ★ Investment offer carries full BES tax relief for 1985/86.

Offer for Subscription Under the terms of the Business Expansion Scheme SPONSORED BY **POINTON YORK LTD** (a member of NASDPM) OF 480,000 Ordinary Shares of 50p each at £1.05 per share payable in full on application. The subscription list will be closed when the Offer is fully subscribed or at 3.00 p.m. on 3rd April 1986. No application is to be made for any part of the company's share capital to be admitted to the official list of the Stock Exchange or to the Unlisted Securities Market. Copies of the Prospectus are available from **POINTON YORK LTD** 7 Cavendish Square, London, W1M 9HA. Telephone 01-631 3015

INCOME TAX RELIEF FOR 1985/86

Offers for Subscription under the Business Expansion Scheme Sponsored by

Baden-Powell, Chilcott & Co.

Hamilton Bland plc

*Asset Backed *Swimming Pool Products and Waterslides
 *£200,000 invested by the Chairman

The Group has been trading since 1981 as a supplier of swimming pool equipment to operators of large commercial swimming pools and waterslides. This Offer, which is being jointly sponsored by The Tudorbury Group plc, is being made to fund the planned expansion of the Group's activities. The Directors are projecting profits before taxation of £340,000 for the current year to 31st December, 1986 and £750,000 for the subsequent year.

PAX HILL plc

*Asset Backed *Care for the Elderly and Disabled
 *£750,000 invested by the Directors

Pax Hill plc is already trading successfully in a growing sector of the Health Care market. This Offer is being made to provide funds for the Group to further its project of providing a Community for Care for the elderly and disabled. The Directors are forecasting profits before taxation of £20,000 for the year ending 30th September, 1986 and projecting £300,000 for the subsequent year.

Winebank plc

*Asset Backed *Two Masters of Wine on the Board
 *Minimum Subscription Exceeded

The Board of Directors combines management and financial experience and recognised expertise in the selection, acquisition and sale of classed growth Clarets, Burgundies and Vintage Ports and semi-mature good quality French Wines. The Company, whose net assets are substantially represented by fine wines and/or cash, is now trading. As the minimum subscription has been exceeded, share certificates are being issued to subscribers.

To: Baden-Powell, Chilcott & Co., 805 Salisbury House, 31 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 5SQ. Telephone: 01-588 7878 (office hours) or 01-638 6339 (24 hours). Telex 888729 MS CO-G.

Please send me the Prospectus for Hamilton Bland plc/PAX HILL plc/Winebank plc to:

Name _____
 Address _____
 Postcode _____

and a further copy to my accountant/solicitor/professional adviser (details enclosed). Up to 4% commission will be paid to professional intermediaries on successful applications. This advertisement does not constitute an invitation to subscribe for shares.

FAMILY MONEY/6

Electronic cash call

BUSINESS EXPANSION

The pre-Budget flood of Business Expansion Scheme companies is throwing up quite a variety of projects for investors. Our BES table lists all those we have come across to date which remain open for investment.

Electrostore is a rarity among BES companies - it has a track record going back to 1972 and made profits before tax in its last three years. The company is a distributor of electronic components, manufactures control equipment and produces wire-wound resistors. It is looking for up to £760,000 through the issue of 1.4 million shares at 60p each.

For those in search of asset backing, the company, assuming it hits the jackpot on the share issue, will have net tangible assets of 33.3p per 60p share. Its profits in the past three years are hardly going to set the town on fire, although unaudited results to the end of last year show £95,000 pre-tax profit, and Electrostore is forecasting £190,000 for the full year.

The prospectus talks positively about a USM launch after three years, which is all very well if it happens. Unlike many other BES projects, the

directors' options are not vehicles of greed. They will have to pay an effective price of £1.60 per share. When you consider that this is not a heavy asset-backed venture, it is a healthy premium on the level that outsiders are being asked to pay.

On the other hand the three principal directors are taking basic salaries ranging between £35,000 and £37,000 a year, plus pension contributions, in one case of £14,300 a year, and a profit-related bonus which last year gave them an added £45,000.

You must bear in mind, however, that all three have worked together in the business since 1972, between them have vast experience of the BES issues, and unlike other BES issues have a few welcome grey hairs between them.

Pleasureworld plc, a holiday centre and theme park group, is looking for up to £1.83 million, to reduce borrowings resulting from the development of the theme park and to fund working capital. It is forecasting a £225,000 loss in the year to March 31, 1986, and made losses of £23,000 and £378,000 in the two previous years. According to the prospectus it will have net tangible assets which actually exceed the 145p price shares on offer if it raises the maxi-

mum, while also providing employment for up to 340 people in peak times.

Investors being asked to pay 145p a share now, might like to bear in mind that only last week shares were allotted in the company at prices of between 131.625p and 135p. These fortunate allottees include three nominees and clients of joint sponsors Guidehouse, who were privileged to pay only 135p for their shares.

Alliance Asset Management, which is looking to raise up to £1 million to finance the establishment of an estate agency business, is another BES project where various persons have been allotted shares, shortly before the public issue at prices below that which outsiders have to pay.

Some 173,000 shares were allotted at £1.50 each, as opposed to the £2 price that the current issue of 500,000 shares carries. Keith Moss, of the sponsors Lancashire and Yorkshire Investment Management, points out that this relates to a previous circularization of a prospectus to existing clients of John Marcher, the chairman of the BES venture, which was done when there was a likelihood of buying one property instead of the two that the company now has.

In effect, the project has



Robin Boyle, Fortnight

turned into a better deal than it was at the time of the original prospectus.

A number of services which purport to give advice or information on BES issues have emerged recently, in response to the wide-ranging choice of projects available. One of these has been set up by brokers Stancliffe Todd and Hodgson.

It has two things going for it. Robin Boyle, the man behind the service, appears to have some very forthright views on BES projects and will put the "rip-off" projects straight in the bin. Secondly, the service is absolutely free.

"It is apparent that there are a number of very bad schemes on the market at the moment," he says. "Having eliminated the 'shockers', we then discard projects that do not look viable, that are extremely speculative or that look poor value for money."

It is worth giving the service a go. Details available on 01-628 3321.

Best BES is an independent information service which will vet BES companies and prepare reports on those it recommends. It also intends to keep investors informed on the progress of recommendations and assess their performance.

People will be kept informed

The first issue contains reports on two recommendations - Finotel and Country Gardens, both of which are sensible choices. These two reports are detailed and comprehensive and benefit from personal visits to meet the directors of the companies concerned.

The company says it will use lawyers and accountants, and, where necessary, experts from the fields that the BES companies it reports on operate. It all sounds very commendable, if indeed this new service follows up its intentions. Details available from BES Investment Research Ltd, 60 St James Street, London SW1A 1LE (01-409 1111).

Lawrence Lever

BUSINESS EXPANSION COMPANIES

Company	Activity	Sponsor	Telephone	Indiv Min	Closing Date
Acorn Hardwoods	Sawmill	Acorn	0728-3377	£500	March 28
Alan International	Hairdressers	Hitchens Harrison	01-5885171	£1,000	March 31
Alan Paul	Hairdressers	Capital Ventures	0204-554896	£500	April 5
Alexandra Hotels	Hotels	P&L	01-2384070	£1,000	March 16
Alliance Asset Mgmt	Estate agency	Lancs & Yorks Inv	01-4888268	£1,500	No date
Ardenclote	Country club	Mathercourt	01-8319001	£750	March 25
Barhampton	Country club	LET	01-5811322	£525	March 25
Branch Refinement Homes	Nursing homes	Hincorn Earl	01-7330123	£1,000	March 25
Bright Walton Homes	Nursing homes	Hill Samuel	01-6288011	£2,000	March 18
British America's	Cup Challenges	Guinness	01-6233833	£1,000	March 14
Care Homes UK	Nursing homes	Mahon	01-4834278	£1,000	March 17
Charlotte's St. Restaurants	Restaurants	Anglo Dutch	01-4839699	£520	April 2
City & Capital Hotels	Hotels	Johnson Fry	01-4950686	£3,000	March 15
City Shops	Franchise shops	Baltic	01-4939899	£500	April 3
Coastal Resorts Hotels	Hotels	First Independent	01-3312358	£500	April 4
Country Gardens	Garden centres	Country Gardens	0235-833900	£3,000	March 17
Diader	Lighting	Mercia V C	021-2333404	£1,000	April 5
Finotel	Hotels	Electra	01-8967766	£2,100	March 14
First Fine Wine	Wines	First Fine Wine	0494-450296	£500	April 5
Frew MacKenzie	Bookellers	Mercia V C	021-2333404	£1,000	April 5
Green Park Health Care	Nursing homes	Pointon York	01-6313015	£575	March 17
Guardian Cars	Nursing homes	DJ Tomley	0204-699131	£800	April 4
Homeygen Assured Const	Builder	Chanancy Sacs	01-2422583	£500	March 18
Hydroch (UK)	Household Equip	Bentley Jwa	01-487381	£975	March 28
Lockton Inns	Public houses	Guinness Mahon	01-6233833	£1,000	March 15
Lociton Retail Stores	Franchise shops	Guinness Mahon	01-6233833	£1,000	March 15
Private Medical Centres	Medical centres	Johnson Fry	01-4950686	£3,000	March 15
Saint Hotels	Hospice loans	Bournemouth Finol	0202-384514	£500	March 14
Shelford Inns	Public houses	Johnson Fry	01-4950686	£3,000	March 14
Unicorn Inns	Public houses	W Greenwell	01-2382040	£2,000	March 16
What to Buy	Magazines	Capital Ventures	0242-584380	£975	March 25
Theatre Royal Prestige	Theatre	Darrington	0272-212206	£500	April 4
Playhouse Theatre	Theatre	Chanancy Sacs	01-2422583	£500	April 3
British Brandy	Wines	Heestling Moss	0272-278521	£1,000	March 25
Fraser House Comm Dev	Development	Robert Fraser	01-4933211	£1,000	March 15
Pax Hill	Community care	Baden-Powell Chocott	01-5883047	£1,250	March 17
Stratmore Court Homes	Resid. hots	Bournemouth Finol	0202-384514	£500	March 14
Electronics	Electronics	Strauss Turnbull	01-5385699	£800	April 4
First Retail	Clothing	Robert Fraser	01-4933211	£2,000	April 2
Hamilton Island	Swimming pool	Baden-Powell Chocott	01-5883047	£1,250	March 27
Highland Express	Air Travel	Collins-White	01-3329701	£500	March 3
London Collectives	Restaurants	Collins-White	0703-226221	£1,000	March 27
New Orleans Cate	Restaurant	Fox Milton	01-2482417	£500	April 4
Southdowns Hotel	Hotels	Pointon York	01-6313015	£550	March 17
Stephen Charles Designer	Son furnishings	Fox Milton	01-2482417	£500	April 4
Stephens Hotels	Hotels	Pointon York	01-6313015	£550	March 17
Suffolk Hotels	Hotels	Pointon York	01-6313015	£550	March 17
Technical Production	Cleaning products	Prior Harwin	01-8200652	£500	April 8
First Secured Hotels	Hotels	Holland Trust	01-2384581	£1,100	March 14
Takara	Medical care	UTC Securities	01-4990223	£1,100	March 14

EXTRA UNITS UP TO 5th APRIL

The only 3 Unit Trusts most investors should ever need

With over eight hundred unit trusts available and more being launched each month, how do you know which to choose? In reality there are only three basic types of unit trust, and M&G has an outstandingly successful example of each: Recovery Fund for capital growth, Dividend Fund for income, and SECOND General for a balance between income and growth.

Income DIVIDEND FUND

You should remember that new funds or funds which suffer a change of management are likely to be more of a gamble than those which can point to a long and successful record. M&G's investment team has remained largely unchanged for many years, and our long-term performance record reflects this. Past performance cannot be a guarantee for the future, but it is usually the best measure you have of a fund's likelihood of achieving its objective.

We are offering an extra 1% unit allocation if you invest £1,000 or more and 2% if you invest £10,000 or more per Fund.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up. This means that unit trusts are a long-term investment and not suitable for money you may need at short notice.

COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE. Value of £10,000 invested in income units at the launch of M&G Dividend Fund on 5th May 1964, compared with a similar investment in a Building Society.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY
6 May '64			£10,000	£10,000
1965	£396	£536	10,200	10,000
1970	463	650	10,760	10,000
1975	828	871	16,300	10,000
1980	1,660	1,200	24,280	10,000
1985	2,278	908*	65,160	10,000

NOTES: All income figures shown are net of basic rate tax. The Building Society income figures are based on the average of the rates offered in each year (source: Building Societies Association). M&G Dividend capital figures are all realisation values. *Estimated.

Growth RECOVERY FUND

M&G Recovery Fund is probably the most successful unit trust ever launched and the table below shows just how well it has achieved its aim of capital growth. The Fund buys the shares of companies which have fallen on hard times. Losses must be expected when a company fails to recover but the effect of a turnaround can be dramatic.

COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE. Value of £10,000 invested at the launch of M&G SECOND General on 5th June 1956, with net income reinvested.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G SECOND	FT ORDINARY INDEX	RETAIL PRICE INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
5 June '56	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
1960	19,520	20,080	11,293	12,483
1965	31,320	26,230	13,492	16,093
1970	46,480	30,540	17,143	21,636
1975	79,840	39,620	33,107	31,651
1980	195,400	61,600	62,494	49,931
1985	446,000	176,240	85,941	78,588

NOTES: All figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on an open interest account offering 1½% above the average yearly rate (source: Building Societies Association). M&G SECOND General figures are all realisation values.

SPECIAL OFFER CLOSES 5th APRIL

All applications received by 5th April 1986 will be given an extra 1% allocation of units. This will increase to 2% for applications of £10,000 or more per Fund.

To: M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BQ

Please invest the sum(s) indicated below in the Fund(s) of my choice (minimum investment in each Fund: £1,000) in ACCUMULATION/INCOME units (where applicable or Accumulation units will be issued for Recovery and SECOND and Income units will be issued for Dividend) at the price ruling on receipt of this application. DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY.

A contract note will be sent to you stating exactly how much you owe and the settlement date. Your certificate will follow shortly.

RECOVERY (M&G £1,000) £ -00

DIVIDEND (M&G £1,000) £ -00

SECOND (M&G £1,000) £ -00

NAME: _____

SURNAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POST CODE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

TM 481016

INCOME TAX RELIEF FOR 1985/86

BRITISH AMERICA'S CUP CHALLENGES PLC

OFFER FOR SUBSCRIPTION

UNDER THE BUSINESS EXPANSION SCHEME

OF 3,000,000 ORDINARY SHARES AT £1 PER SHARE

ARRANGED BY

GUINNESS MAHON & CO LIMITED

British America's Cup Challenges PLC will be an exciting addition to any well-planned Business Expansion portfolio.

BACC will exploit commercial opportunities arising from British participation in the Americas Cup and other yachting events, revenues from which are potentially high. As such it will be involved in the growing field of sports promotion.

The Company is providing the British entry for the 1987 Americas Cup. It will have two yachts in Australia from which to select a challenging yacht for the 1987 Americas Cup. Both British yachts have been extensively tested at scale against models similar to Australia II, the last winner and significant performance improvements have been achieved.

Harold Cudmore will be the Skipper of the 1987 British Challenge. He won the 1984 Australia Cup (the Australian Match Racing Championship) and recently skipped not only the top point-scoring yacht in the Admirals Cup but also the leading yacht in the winning British team for the Southern Cross Cup, two of the world's most important ocean racing events.

The Offer closes on 14th March, 1986.

Copies of the prospectus offering shares for subscription in BACC may be obtained by telephoning 01-623 9333 (24 hour service) or by completing the coupon below.

This advertisement does not constitute an invitation to subscribe for shares.

To: Guinness Mahon & Co. Limited, 32 St. Mary at Hill, London EC3P 3AJ

Please send me _____ copies of the prospectus for British America's Cup Challenges PLC.

Name _____

Address _____

£20 A MONTH CAN ACCUMULATE A LOT OF MONEY

If you had chosen fifteen years ago to save £20 a month in a building society, and had left the interest to accumulate, by 1st January 1986 your total outlay of £3,600 would have built up to £7,192. On the other hand, if you had chosen to save the same amount each month in one of our larger unit trusts, M&G SECOND General Trust Fund, you would have built up an investment worth £16,376, an extra £9,184.

You can start an M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan with as little as £20. You need not subscribe regularly but we strongly recommend that you do so, by completing the Bankers Order form. By saving a regular amount you make fluctuations in the stockmarket work to your advantage because more units are bought when their price is low than when it is high.

Unit Trusts are an excellent method of investing in the various stockmarkets of the world, and are ideal for regular investment over the longer term. They are not suitable for money you may need at short notice.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

WHAT YOU COULD HAVE ACCUMULATED FOR £20 A MONTH BY 1st JAN. 1986

	15 YEARS (1.1.1971 to 1.1.1986)	10 YEARS (1.1.1976 to 1.1.1986)	5 YEARS (1.1.1981 to 1.1.1986)
Amount paid in	£200	£240	£360
M&G Recovery	2,064	7,989	23,693
M&G Dividend	2,342	7,572	18,036
M&G SECOND	2,024	7,310	16,376
FT. Industrial Ordinary Index	2,199	6,380	12,754
Building Society Savings Account	1,487	3,823	7,192

Source: Planned Savings. All performance figures include income reinvested net of basic-rate tax. The figures for the M&G Funds are 'bid' prices. You should remember that past performance is no guarantee for the future.

Your Savings Plan subscriptions go into Accumulation units of the Fund you choose and income is reinvested automatically after basic-rate tax. Further details of the Funds and what you could have accumulated for £20 a month by 1st Jan. 1986 are available on request.

The only charges are those you normally pay with unit trusts - 5% included in the initial price of units and up to 1% annually (currently limited to ¾% except for International Income Fund which is 1%) for management. There are no extra charges for this Savings Plan.

You can vary the amount you pay and you are free to cash in your accumulated investment, or part of it, at any time without penalty.

The securities in a unit trust are held in safe custody by the Trustee (one of the major banks). You can follow the progress of your plan by looking up the price of units and the current yield in the Financial Times or other leading newspapers. You buy units at the 'offer' price and sell at the 'bid' price.

SAVINGS PLANS FOR CHILDREN

The minimum age for the Unit Trust Savings Plan is 14, but accounts for younger children can be opened in the name of an adult and designated with the child's full name.

NO EXTRA CHARGES

TO: M&G SECURITIES LTD, THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BQ

I WISH TO SUBSCRIBE £ _____ (M&G £20) each month to the M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan and I enclose a cheque (made payable to M&G Securities Limited) for my first subscription of £ _____ (you may wish to start your plan with a lump sum).

I wish my subscriptions to be invested in the Fund circled.

SP 481016

BANKERS ORDER DO NOT DETACH FROM ENROLMENT FORM

TO: _____ BANK DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Your Bank Sorting Code: _____ Personal BPA Account No: _____ See your Cheque Book for details.

Please pay to National Westminster Bank PLC, C. 151 Molesham Street, Chesham, Bucks HP8 4JN, Account No. 5571270 for the credit of M&G Securities Limited (SAVINGS PLAN ACCOUNT), enclosing _____ the sum of £ _____ on the _____ day of _____ 1986 and continue to pay that amount on the _____ day of each month thereafter until further order in writing from me, and debit my account with you from time to time with such payments.

AND INITIALS: _____

ADDRESS: _____ SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

THE M&G GROUP

How you could cut your school fees costs by 80%.

The Equitable has recently had an Educational Trust established (with all the tax advantages of charitable status), that's designed to save you thousands of pounds on public school fees.

For example, a single contribution of £9,491.22 could, after 10 years, provide £48,000 worth of school fees* in total over the following 7 years.

At a saving of 80%.

Or you may prefer to spread the cost by making regular contributions. Either way, if you're thinking of putting your child's name down for public school, put his name down for an Equitable School Fees Trust Plan. Cut out the coupon or phone 01-606 6611 for details.

*Figures suppose that current immediate January rates apply at the time, and that current house levels and inflation remain constant. Figures are based on a 10% annual rate of return, as well as a future bonus which depends on profits, costs and the year arrived. Reproduced by N.A.S. Ltd.

To: The Equitable Life, FREEPOST 4 Coleman Street, London EC2B 2JT. I'd welcome further details on your school fee plan, financing them by: A capital sum; Spreading the cost over a period. (UK residents only)

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms) _____ (UK residents only)

Address _____

Postcode _____ Tel: (Office) _____

Date of Birth _____ Tel: (Home) _____

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South Kensington
LONDON SW7 2HF
Tel: 01581 2611 (3 lines)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Day time Tel. No: _____

Lump sum available: £ _____

You can buy almost anything on the telephone, including now legal advice. A £10 credit card payment will buy you one telephone call to a London solicitor's office which aims to deal with a wide range of day-to-day legal problems.

This is not the first telephone legal advice scheme. There already on offer include a 24-hour legal service from Hambro House Legal Protection Ltd, which its spokesman describes as "legal first aid".

However, although the telephone calls to Hambro House are free, you have to buy one of its Family Legal Protection policies before you can participate. The policy premiums are cheap at £6 a year but the policies are not sold separately and have to be bought as a supplement to other cover such as household insurance.

But before you take out your credit card or buy an insurance policy you may not need you should stop to consider the free legal advice services already on offer for everyday legal problems.

The first port of call for most people are the Citizens' Advice Bureaux. One solicitor candidly remarked: "Many of the telephone queries that I receive could easily be answered by the Citizens' Advice Bureaux."

Sheila Morley, of the bureau in Twickenham, Middlesex, said: "In an average day we deal with about 60 inquiries. Many of the legal problems we can answer there and then, as all that is required is to find out what the law is. If needed, we can recommend a solicitor immediately, but we also run a scheme whereby local solicitors come to the bureau one evening a week.

"The service is free of charge and is by prior appointment so that we can ensure that a suitably qualified solicitor is on hand."

Legal Advice Centres also offer free advice. One evening a week the Fulham Legal Advice Centre in west London, which is fortunately not affected by funding cuts, has 10 solicitors in attendance.

No appointment is necessary, so you do have to sit and wait, but with so many solicitors on hand a wide range of expertise is on offer. The centre does accept donations but regardless of your income there is no charge.

Other sources of free legal advice are available. Members of the Automobile Association have automatic access to a free legal service which deals with all sorts of motoring problems. Even if solicitors are instructed to act there is no charge. Their spokesman said:

"The only time we ask for payment is if we take up negotiations on your behalf against a third party. There is then a nominal registration fee of up to £15."

Members of some trade unions have access to their union lawyers who will often deal with all sorts of problems, not just employment difficulties. Similarly, many companies, both large and small, offer their employees access to their company lawyers — if not free of charge, at considerably reduced fees.

A little publicized service open to all accident victims is the Accident Advisory

Scheme, run by local law societies up and down the country. The idea of the scheme is to help anyone who wants to claim compensation for any sort of accident. The initial interview with a solicitor is free and details of areas offering the service are available from Citizens' Advice Bureaux.

Some enterprising individual firms of solicitors are also offering free initial interviews. On Prestel, London solicitor Paul Hancock advertises "a free initial interview for property mortgage and personal finance matters."

Mr Hancock said: "I think it is far better to see a client face to face than to discuss the matter in a telephone call. I rather wonder how many supplementary telephone calls you would need to really get to the root of the problem."

A group of six firms of London solicitors, known as the Kensington and Chelsea Law Group, offers in its brochure "a no-obligation preliminary half-hour's consultation free of charge". This service is also in the brochure of Givens of Northampton.

For those not able to find "free advice" the next best thing could be the £5 fixed fee interview offered by most solicitors. For £5 including VAT you can have 30 minutes of legal advice on a whole range of matters.

However, you must ask for the scheme when you seek advice, or you could find that the solicitor may not volunteer the service as it is hardly cost-effective. One solicitor commented: "The sum involved is so small that it is easier to give the advice for free as a gesture of goodwill."

Susan Fieldman

Justice with 10% interest

Readers who feel they are troubled upon by companies with which they invest their money should take a leaf out of Helen Ash's book. She refused to allow Allied Dunbar to get away with some shoddy service she and her husband suffered.

Two years ago the Ashes bought more than £40,000 worth of Allied Dunbar unit trusts. Buying the units was easy. However, Mr and Mrs Ash claim they usually had to telephone more than once to sell units, their first call somehow seldom registering.

Last year the Ashes tried to sell units in the Allied Dunbar 2nd Smaller Companies Trust. More than £8000 was involved which they wanted to invest in a new issue of Cable & Wireless shares.

"It took about five weeks from the date instructions to sell were issued to actually getting the money for the units," says Mrs Ash. "Each time we were fobbed off with excuses, and when we got the money there was no proper explanation or any written note of apology." They therefore missed the C&W issue.

Mrs Ash, however, insisted that Allied Dunbar pay interest to cover the delay. Allied Dunbar offered 8 per cent to cover the period from seven working days after the sale instructions to the date the money was received. Mrs Ash insisted on 10 per cent — the rate she claimed that she could have earned on the money — and she got it.

Allied Dunbar blames postal problems, a cheque that disappeared and an administrative error. "The matter was settled amicably and we are very sorry for the delay," a spokesman said last week.

Taxman creeps up on life policies

The Fleet Friendly Society has written to the 2,000 policy holders who thought they had just managed to beat the Chancellor's Budget Day abolition of life assurance premium relief (LAPR) two years ago to tell them that the Inland Revenue has pounced.

Tax relief on premiums, which amounts to a 17.65 per cent boost to the amount invested, had been paid by the Inland Revenue to Fleet up until November. But now it says that only those policies where the society had written back to policy holders by Budget Day to confirm that the policy had been accepted would continue to receive LAPR.

Fleet is appealing to the Special Commissioners over its ruling. But even if it wins the case and the Inland Revenue pays the arrears of LAPR, the policy holders will have missed out on several months' investment growth.

Some insurance companies, like the Prudential, have given up fighting with the Revenue and are bearing the cost of LAPR on the disputed policies. Some friendly societies have just offered the policy holders their money back

when confronted with the Inland Revenue's challenge.

But Fleet's managing director, Murray Cowles, argues that as a friendly society, Fleet accepted the members' and offered "immediate life cover". Thus the contracts were effected without the need to communicate back to the policy holders.

Fleet has already paid out 11 death claims on members whose policies were taken out on March 13, 1984, Budget Day.

Legal opinion taken by the society indicates that they have a strong case.

Vivien Goldsmith

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Alternatively, dial 100, ask for FREEPHONE EAGLE STAR and speak direct to our dealers. They will be pleased to take details of your investment there and then. You can also use the FREEPHONE service to obtain further information about this (or any other) Eagle Star Unit Trust. Our experts will be available to answer your call from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at weekends.

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Following the progress of your investment, we will send you a Copy Report within 7 days, and a Unit Certificate usually within 20 days. Each of these will state the number of units you have bought. Unit prices are shown in The Times and the Financial Times.

Capital gains tax. The unit trust itself is not subject to capital gains tax and there are no tax credits or tax relief on the units. If you are liable to basic rate tax, you can claim the amount deducted. If you are liable to higher rate tax, you will have to pay the additional rate of tax on it.

Trustees: Midland Bank Trust Company, Limited
Managers: Eagle Star Unit Managers Limited Registered Office: 1, The Quadrant, London, EC4A 3DF
Registered: The Royal Bank of Scotland Plc.

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FREEPOST Bath Road, Cheltenham, Glos. GL53 3BR

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Surname (in full) _____
Initials (in full) _____
Forwards me the following _____
Address _____
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I am over 18 years of age.
If the holding is to be in joint names, please fill names and addresses of the other joint holders (maximum of 3) on a separate sheet of paper.

Signature _____ Date _____
Name and address of Financial Adviser (if any) _____
As a dealer in members of L.C.S. T.B.S.

Eagle Star Group
Eagle Star Unit Managers Limited
Eagle Star House, Bath Road, Cheltenham, Glos. GL53 7LQ.
Telephone: (0242) 577555

The information contained in this prospectus is based on Eagle Star's understanding of current law and Inland Revenue practice.

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Tel Nos: Business _____
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FAMILY MONEY/8

Insurers also hit by crash

It has now emerged that more large insurance companies are involved in an insurance disaster - reported last week in Family Money - in which well-known life offices are denying responsibility for missing pensions and life assurance premiums paid to an insurance intermediary.

An estimated statement of affairs of the company concerned, passed to The Times this week, shows that at least six life offices are involved. It also reveals how the general insurers have themselves lost hundreds of thousands of pounds.

General Accident and Sun Alliance appear to have lost more than £54,000, and £36,000 respectively in the liquidation. Norwich Union appears as an unsecured creditor, with £23,000 debts owed to it. Even the Prudential is an unsecured creditor for £22,000. Altogether 15 general insurance companies have lost more than £200,000.

These significant losses, involving insurers who allowed the intermediary to act as their agent, highlight the inadequacy of the current systems for vetting the suitability of intermediaries and throw into question the current proposals for self-regulation of the life assurance industry.

Almost all the missing money was insurance premiums for general - non-life - policies which the insurers never received. However, unlike the life offices, the general insurers were prepared to take responsibility for the consequences and are understood to have honoured claims on policies for which they did not receive full premiums. The life offices are at the moment refusing to accept any legal or moral liability for their apparent endorsement of the broker intermediary.

"The general insurance companies played it very fair," a solicitor involved in the case said this week. "To an extent it was gambling money for them. If there were justified claims on the policies they paid out. If not, then all they lost were the premiums they didn't receive."

A legal argument advanced by some solicitors involved is that the broker concerned would in any event be the agent of the insurance companies, not the assured. This is backed up by the general insurance practice of companies sending renewal notices to the broker for passing on to the client, and generally authorizing the broker to collect premiums on behalf of the client.

The life offices involved are taking a different line. Scottish Equitable, Clerical Medical and General, Friends' Provident, Equity and Law, Scottish Provident and Equitable Life are the offices for which pensions and life insurance moneys were earmarked through the broker intermediary.

They take the view that the intermediary was not their agent, even though some of them were known to have agency agreements with the intermediary and at least one of them is known to have sent notices to the intermediary, rather than to the assured, that contributions were due.

Clerical Medical has confirmed that it is currently facing a £186,000 action over missing pension contributions, but refuses to say whether or not it had an agency agreement with the intermediary. "The action has been brought by the trustees of a pension scheme who had a pension contract with us. They are asking for a declaration that certain moneys paid to this broker are held by us for them," the company said.

Lawrence Lever

Two ways to win - with words of wisdom

The Government's keenness to promote the concept of wider share ownership has thrown the old established Wider Share Ownership Council into the limelight.

Right on cue, the WSO has come up with a valuable essay competition - first prize £2,000 with £1,000 and £500 for the two runners-up - for the best 5,000-word essay on the subject of spreading share ownership in Britain.

The competition is being sponsored by Stewart Speiser, an American lawyer, and it is open to all residents of the UK aged 18 or over. The closing date is December 31, 1986, so you have plenty of time to prepare your entry.

"In 5,000 words or less, devise a plan for spreading ownership of Britain's productive assets broadly among the people, and reviving the economy, without confiscation or increased taxation," says the competition entry form.

The judges are Lord Harris of High Cross, Sir Robert Shone and Sam Britan.

Preferably, entries should be typed - you will stand a better chance of getting your piece properly read if it does not strain the judges' eyesight - and it should be accompanied by a 200-word abstract, giving a précis of the essay.

Full details and an entry form can be obtained from the Executive Secretary, Wider Share Ownership Council, Juxon House, 94 St Paul's Churchyard, London EC4M 8EH.

The council is also running an essay competition for schools. The Sainsbury company is sponsoring this one and the prizes are £400 for the winner and £200, £150 and £50 for the runners-up.

Entries must be received by April 30, 1986, and the subject of the essay is a discussion based on the following: "The case for citizen ownership of productive assets is greatest if there really is going to be a robotics revolution which will lower the value of most kinds of labour and increase the concentration of capital ownership."

This is a statement from an article by Sam Britan, who is an economist writing for the Financial Times.

Full details of this competition can be obtained from the same address.

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To: The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, 1 Coleman Street, London EC2B 2JT. For details further details on Individual Pension Plans, C Unit-linked based alternatives. (UK residents only)

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How much estate will the taxman leave you?



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As home-ownership increases and property values rise, it is inevitable that the Inland Revenue will collect more and

Transfer Tax each passing year. CTT is no longer a tax which applies exclusively to those considered to be wealthy. Indeed, it is probable that anyone reading this advertisement will

7 February 1986

TAXATION

The leading authority on the law, practice and administration of taxation

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A BETTER DISCOUNTED GIFT SCHEME

A new plan launched by the Sun Life Assurance Society earlier this week introduces a completely new concept in capital transfer tax planning. In your new concept in capital transfer tax planning, in your Editor's opinion this new plan - accurately rather than pithily entitled "The Flexible Transfer Trust" (with discounted gift values) - is to be preferred to both PETA plans and traditional inheritance trusts.

The plan is based on a single premium, unit-linked, whole life policy. To avoid confusing terminology, the person putting up the funds to pay the potential mums, and who is seeking to reduce his potential capital transfer tax liability, will be referred to as the client.

The Flexible Transfer Trust was devised by Mr. Lal Vohra BA, LLB, LL.M., Sun Life's Personal Tax Manager. It offers four significant advantages: it is simple; it is not artificial; it achieves an immediate reduction in the estate potentially liable to capital transfer tax; and there are no payments from the policy trustees back to the client (why this is an advantage will be explained later).

At the outset, it is arranged that the client will make withdrawals (partial surrenders) at an agreed rate (this does not have to be a flat rate - an escalating schedule can be chosen). If annual withdrawals exceed five per cent of the premium originally paid, a success fee per cent of the premium will be payable. The client receives the partial surrenders proceeds direct from Sun Life: they do not pass through the hands of the policy trustees. This is better than the standard inheritance trust arrangement, where the trustees take the withdrawals and then pass the money on to the client. There is then a danger (however small) that the Revenue may claim to identify these regular payments by the trustees as being of an income nature and taxable as such.

The right to receive partial surrenders will die with the client (or with the survivor of the client and his/her spouse, if a joint lives policy is taken). The death benefit - the remaining value of the policy - is settled on flexible trusts for the desired heirs. These trusts are worded so as to give the defunct beneficiaries' interests in possession. By means of actuarial tables agreed between Sun Life and the Capital Taxes Office, the premium paid is allocated between the right to receive withdrawals - which remains in the client's estate but which becomes valueless at his

death - and the death benefit, which for capital transfer tax purposes is the subject of an immediate gift. For example, if a man aged 75 paid a premium of £100,000 and chose to take withdrawals of £5,000 a year, the taxable gift would be £ - 500. This would still be so, even if he died the day after making the gift.

If the survivor is aged 85, the transfer will be written off his CTT clock.

The practical effect is therefore the same as that claimed for a PETA plan. However, the Sun Life plan achieves this without recourse to the contrived arrangements and notional premiums which are hallmarks of any PETA plan. A technical difference is that, whereas the term assurance element of a PETA plan ensures that the heirs receive a stated capital sum, under Sun Life's plan they will receive 80 per cent of the bid value of the units remaining (remains) taken, that is, after whatever partial surrenders have been taken for the withdrawals.

Because the allocation of the premiums paid between the rights retained by the client and those settled on his heirs has to be computed at the outset, the agreed schedule of withdrawals cannot be altered. Indeed, other than to provide the agreed withdrawals, the policy has no surrender value. (From this it follows that there will usually be no income tax charge on death.)

Younger clients, therefore, will probably wish to consider alternative arrangements - such as Sun Life's Flexible Transfer Trust (with capital transfer tax relief), first reviewed in these columns on 6 April 1985 (page 9). Under this arrangement, the client places (say) £100,000 in an insurance bond, subject to a trust declaration under which a fixed sum (say £95,000) is held for the benefit of himself. But all or future capital growth accrues to the chosen beneficiaries. The client can, at any time, withdraw all or any part of his £95,000. As he takes and spends withdrawals, the value of his estate will of course diminish.

We believe that Sun Life are to be congratulated on having made available two capital transfer tax saving plans which avoid inherent artificiality and which, accordingly, are most unlikely to be "beaten" by the Revenue. Further details can be obtained from Lal Vohra, Sun Life Ass. Soc., 100, Cannon Row, London EC2V 0DY.

High praise indeed - we feel as if we have been awarded a medal!

eventually have a CTT liability. And it is most unlikely that a change of Government would do anything to improve the situation.

It follows that there is an increasing need for people to arrange their financial affairs in such a way as to minimise the amount of CTT that may one day have to be paid on their estate.

At various times, life assurance companies have devised complicated schemes designed to reduce CTT liabilities for investors. Some of these schemes have been attacked by the Inland Revenue - some have not. But they have often involved a degree of artificiality.

Instead of following this route SUN LIFE has applied original thought to the problem and has evolved the Flexible Transfer Trust which is simple, effective and contains no artificial elements. The simplicity of Flexible Transfer Trust means that investors can see clearly what it is and how it works. It also means that SUN LIFE can administer the arrangement easily and efficiently without the need to develop costly new systems. This results in a substantial cost advantage which can be passed on to investors.

For further details of our Flexible Transfer Trust Plan please complete and return the coupon or telephone FACLINE on Bristol (0272) 49886

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1985/6 TAX RELIEF

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SUCCESS OF U.S. FIRM - In the USA, Sir Speedy, Inc. has established approximately 800 printing centres with the average Centre believed to do 50% more volume than its nearest competitor.

MANAGEMENT - The Managing Director of Sir Speedy Printing Centres Plc was previously a member of the executive management of Sir Speedy, Inc. USA and was directly involved in the day-to-day activities and on going business development of the Sir Speedy systems.

THE MERITS OF THIS INVESTMENT

- BES tax relief for the year ending 30 April 1986
- Secure business in high growth service industry creating new jobs
- Proven success in the USA - over 800 quick print centres
- Experienced management
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- Minimum subscription of £200,000 has been undertaken
- SUBSCRIPTION (Minimum application £200)
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INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

CHAS - Compounded Net Annual Rate. Figures are the lowest available at the time of going to press.

National Savings Bank
Ordinary accounts - If a minimum balance of £100 maintained for whole of 1986, 6 per cent interest p.a. for each complete month in which balance is over £500, otherwise 3 per cent. Investment Account - 11.5 per cent interest paid without deduction of tax, one month notice of withdrawal, maximum investment £50,000.

National Savings 3rd Index-linked Certificate
Maximum investment £5,000, excluding holdings of other issues. Return tax-free and linked to changes in the Retail Price Index. Supplement of 2.5 per cent in the first year; 2.75 per cent in the second year; 3.25 per cent in the third year; 4 per cent in the fourth year and 5.25 per cent in the fifth year.

National Savings Income Bond
Min. investment £2,000 - max. £50,000. Interest - 12 per cent variable at six weeks notice paid monthly without deduction of tax. Repayment at 3 months' notice. Penalties in first year.

National Savings Deposit Bond
Minimum investment £100 maximum £50,000. Interest 12 per cent variable at six weeks notice, credited annually without deduction of tax. Repayment at three months notice. Half interest only paid on bonds repaid during first year.

Guaranteed Income Bonds
Return paid net of basic rate tax, higher rate taxpayers may have a further liability on maturity. 1 Year - New Direction Finance - 9.5%, 2 and 3 years - General Portfolio - 9.5%, 4 years - Sentinel Insurance - 10.6%, 5 years - New Direction Finance - 9.5%.

Local Authority Town Hall Bonds
Fixed term, fixed rate investments, interest quoted gross (basic rate tax deducted) at source (reclaimable by non-taxpayers until April 1986 when CRT becomes payable). 1 year

Foreign Currency Deposits
Rates quoted by Rothschild's Old Court Ltd. Reserves 0481 25741. Seven days notice is required for withdrawal and no charge is made for switching currencies.

Sterling 8.85 per cent
 US dollar 7.04 per cent
 Yen 5.37 per cent
 DM/Mark 8.75 per cent
 French Franc 10.96 per cent
 Swiss Franc 2.61 per cent

MONEY FUNDS

Fund	Net CHAS	Telephone
Alston Home monthly inc	0.97 0.35	01 626070
B of Scotland	0.74 0.1	01 626070
Banque		
Higher Rate		
Deposit Bond		
£1,000-£5,000	0.57 0.54	01 626057
£10,000+	0.52 0.50	
Call Money	0.57 0.54	01 626277
Call Money		
Mid Plus	0.24 0.25	01 748225
Over £10,000	0.57 0.54	01 296558
Over £10,000		
Money Market		
Over £10,000	0.74 0.10	01 626577
Lloyds HCA	0.00 0.31	01 626458
£2,000-£5,000	0.57 0.56	01 626458
Midland HCA	0.75 0.04	0742 20389
West West High		
Interest Special		
Reserve £2,000		
to £2,500	0.57 0.17	01 728100
£10,000+	0.12 0.44	
Equity		
Money Mgmt		
under £10,000	0.88 0.26	01 236932
over £10,000	0.57 0.25	01 626458
S & P Call a/c	0.75 0.14	0708 0986
Schwab Weg		
Money Fund		
£2,500	0.6 0.55	0705 82735
over £10,000	0.76 0.14	
Tullis & Tully		
T & R 7 day	0.5 0.78	01 236932
Tyndall call	0.25 0.25	0272 732241
Tyndall 7 day	0.1 0.2	
UDF 7 day	0.06 0.27	01 626458
Western trust		
1 month	0.78 0.14	0752 281161

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A FINGER IN EVERY PIE

National Savings Indexed Income Bond
Start rate monthly income for first year, 8 per cent, increased at end of each year to match increase in prices as measured by Retail Prices Index. Cash value remains the same. Income taxable, paid gross. Three months notice of withdrawal. Minimum investment

Tax Relief 1985/86

Offer for subscription under the terms of the BUSINESS EXPANSION SCHEME sponsored and underwritten by **ANGLO DUTCH LIMITED**

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Dorrie House, Swainsgate, Berkshire, will provide nursing and residential care beds for the elderly.

BUSINESS
The company will be engaged in the establishment and operation of nursing and residential care facilities for the elderly, equipped to a high standard.

MANAGEMENT
Lifecare Homes Ltd, a subsidiary of Lifecare International plc, which currently manages approximately 260 beds in 6 nursing homes and 1 residential home will provide supervisory management.

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The skills and experience of the Directors and the management team encompass care of the elderly and hotel and catering - the two main ingredients of the company's business.

GROWTH POTENTIAL
The Directors consider that the property asset base of this company should yield capital growth. Additional growth may be achieved by the acquisition of existing facilities of further homes.

This advertisement has been published by Anglo Dutch Limited and does not constitute an offer to subscribe for shares. Applications will only be accepted on the terms of the Prospectus.

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A new gilt-edged investment bond from Actna Life has turned the conventional charging structure upside down by allowing investors to buy at no initial cost, but penalizing them if they withdraw more than 7.5 per cent within the first six years.

Actna Life, part of the world's largest publicly quoted insurance company, is billing the bond as "the professional investors' building society" because the money can be withdrawn any time - either regularly or on demand.

In essence it is little different from any other insurance company unitized bond investing in gilts. And as we have written many times before, there is little to recommend either insurance company bonds or unit trusts which invest in gilts as you pay such a high price for management and it is usually more tax-efficient to hold gilts direct as a private individual.

However, Actna has gone some way towards overcoming the first obstacle by removing the initial charge and replacing it with penalties for early withdrawal above a certain level.

If more than 7.5 per cent of the original investment is withdrawn, the excess withdrawal will incur a 5 per cent charge in the first year, reducing by 1 per cent a year so that after six years all withdrawals are penalty-free.

This inducement to stay aboard replaces the conventional 5 per cent initial charge. There is, however, an annual management charge of 1.25 per cent.

If you think it is worth paying 1.25 per cent a year for professional management, this could be for you.

The special from Scottish

Scottish Widows has a special offer for new entrants to its personal pension plan contract of a 1 per cent increase in the guaranteed cash value for with-profits policies or an extra 1 per cent allocation of units in the case of the unit-linked plans. The offer is open to policyholders who take out a personal pension plan between March 3 and April 18. Scottish Widows has had a respectable track record on performance in recent years managing to get into the top ten in the performance table over five, 10 and 15 years.

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CONFEDERATION LIFE Managed Fund \$29,146

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SCOTTISH WIDOWS with profits \$31,358

Value of Pension Fund over 10 years to 1st November 1985. Assumed 10 annual premiums of £1,000. Amount Invested (Allowing for tax relief at 30%)

● Prize for the most outstanding performance of the decade must still go to Target Managed Fund. Money Magazine - February 1986.

● Target soars head and shoulders above all rivals in the pensions field coming, once again, top of the performance league table. The Times - Sunday 23rd January 1986.

● Indeed the best performing contract in the survey was linked to Target's Managed Fund. The Daily Telegraph - Sunday 13th December 1985.

● One Company, Target Life, can actually boast an investment record that is so superior that it can afford to pay twice the pension of some of the others. Target stole a march on its rivals, because the Managed Fund holds investments directly rather than putting money into other unit-linked funds within the group. The Daily Telegraph - Sunday 17th March 1984.

● There is no doubt that investors who had the fore-sight or luck to put money in the Target Managed Fund deserve a large dose of self-congratulation. Executive Pension Times (Published by the Financial Times).

And, with Target you're not committed to keeping up a regular payment. You may vary the level of your investment to suit your personal circumstances.

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FOOTBALL: LUTON COME OF AGE AS CLUBS CLAW THEIR WAY OUT OF THE CHAOS

Pleat's graduates plan to hand out a real lesson to their masters

For those who like to savour their football, the glut of Cup ties in the past few days must have caused chronic indigestion. One only hopes that this mad scramble to finish the season's main event before England leave for the World Cup finals on May 3 is justified by a deliciously composed performance by the national team in Mexico.

By Clive White

losing that FA Cup semi-final in extra time to Everton, Luton have grown into a mature student and attained a reputation where it is felt by many that they may know too much for the Merseyside professor today.

them. Everton will miss Stevens' attacking inclination at full back. Howard Kendall, the Everton manager, described the first Luton-Arsenal encounter on Kenilworth Road's plastic pitch, a trifle inaccurately, as an artificial match on an artificial surface.



Stevens: vital role for Everton if passed fit

Celts will not know score till kick-off

By Hugh Taylor

With practically a full-strength squad available, Celtic, the Scottish Cup holders, are in much happier mood as they travel for their fifth-round tie with Hibernian at Easter Road today.

Aberdeen will approach to improve on the slipshod approach they adopted in their European Cup tie with Göteborg if they are to beat the improving and tenacious Dundee at Dens Park today.

WEEKEND TEAM NEWS

FA Cup sixth round Brighton v Southampton Luton have some niggling injuries, including one to Mark Stein. Mark North has been absent in a squad of 13. Everton, without Ratcliffe, may bring back Steady but the problem position is centre back where Harper will come in at full back.

WEEKEND FOOTBALL, RUGBY AND OTHER FIXTURES

Third division Bolton v Aldershot Hibernian v Celtic Motherwell v Dundee Utd. Scottish first division Airdrie v Brechin Albion v Stirling Albion Ayr v Clyde Eyle v Forfar Hamilton v Kilmarnock Motherrose v Morton Partick v Dumbarton.

Mabbutt and Hill come down a level

Gary Mabbutt and Ricky Hill have been called up as reserve players to bolster England's depleted Under 21 squad for next week's European Cup quarter-final first leg in Denmark. They are included in a line-up which has been revised since 11 members of the original squad have been dropped out by club commitments.

WEEKEND FOOTBALL, RUGBY AND OTHER FIXTURES

Scottish Cup Bolton v Aldershot Hibernian v Celtic Motherwell v Dundee Utd. Scottish first division Airdrie v Brechin Albion v Stirling Albion Ayr v Clyde Eyle v Forfar Hamilton v Kilmarnock Motherrose v Morton Partick v Dumbarton.

ATHLETICS

Black and Bennett have point to prove

By Pat Butcher Athletics Correspondent

The British indoor season ends this afternoon with what has become the traditional finale of an England v United States men's match. Since the fixture was inaugurated in 1982, both countries have won twice, with three points being the biggest victory margin.

RUGBY UNION

Palmer ready to compete for club and country

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

While individual clubs in England and Wales begin to look off the radar created through enforced idleness over the last month, the Welsh Rugby Union are looking forward to the season's end and beyond.

dem Welsh at Old Deer Park, happy that Palmer, their captain, has recovered from the knock on the leg that forced him off the field during the Mobbs Memorial match at Northampton on Wednesday. Palmer will also be aware that England may need him against France, should Simms prove unfit on Monday.

A change of cast on county scene

By David Hands

It is a minor curiosity that last season, under a different system of qualifying matches, Kent played Gloucestershire and Warwickshire in the county championship, sponsored by Thorne EML. The same four counties meet again today to contest a place in the final of this season's championship, to be played at Twickenham on April 12.

Alcock could inspire Navy revival

By Peter Marson

Another close battle seems likely at Twickenham this afternoon when the Army take on the Royal Navy in the first of the season's Services tournament matches at the stadium.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Wigan, looking to return to Wembley for their third successive Cup final, face a big challenge this afternoon. In a classic local derby, Wigan face St Helens. The Saints have been in fine form since their 10-0 victory in the first leg of the tie.

Scots set fair again after foul weather

By Ian McLachlan

Clubs return to league business this afternoon (deceptively short of match practice because of the inclement weather).

TABLE TENNIS

Douglas under threat By a Special Correspondent number of days when he cannot summon the mongoose-like reflexes required in the modern game.

3.0 unless stated

FA Cup Brighton v Southampton Luton v Everton. Fifth round replay Bury v Watford (3.15). FA VASE: Sixth round: Havant v Walsley. Walsley v Havant. Walsley v Havant. Walsley v Havant.

3.0 unless stated

First division Chelsea v Man City Ipswich v Nottingham Forest Leicester v Coventry City Liverpool v QPR. Second division Bradford City v Blackpool. Blackpool v Bradford City.

3.0 unless stated

Scottish Cup Bolton v Aldershot Hibernian v Celtic Motherwell v Dundee Utd. Scottish first division Airdrie v Brechin Albion v Stirling Albion Ayr v Clyde Eyle v Forfar Hamilton v Kilmarnock Motherrose v Morton Partick v Dumbarton.

3.0 unless stated

FA Cup Fifth round replay Man Utd v West Ham United. Third division Bolton v Aldershot Hibernian v Celtic Motherwell v Dundee Utd.

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